

ARCHITECT and INTERIORS INDIA

Inspiration and insight for architects and interior designers

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Site Visit
A Steely Affair

Product Spotlight
Veneers

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CREATING BRIGHT FUTURES

IN THE LAP OF
Luxury

Luxury is often subjective, yet these diverse homes from different geographies undoubtedly personify the word in its truest form

CASE STUDY - OFFICE INTERIORS USING VENEER



Kumpal Mittal, principal designer, Kumpal & Associates

The office had to be designed in a way as to accommodate the working of any kind of firm as the client wanted to rent out the office.

We had a free hand in designing and creating a look for the same. We had to make it attractive so that it would be appealing to all interested parties.

We decided to give it a smart look by using straight lines in metal, complemented by fluted glass and veneer as the main elements. Veneer was used to give warmth and richness.

A muted colour palette was used so that the company who rented it out could use its logos and any colour would blend in.

The advantage of veneer is that being a natural product it has a lasting appeal. Few walls have been highlighted to add design elements like the blue wall in the cabin and the motivational wall in the staff areas. A cement finish in grey has been used to finish the look and making it low maintenance.

the strength of the product and the surface becomes strong enough to resist temperature changes and humidity. The fact that veneers are sliced into thin sheets instead of being cut from the log means that no piece of wood is wasted as sawdust and manufacturers can utilise the entire piece of wood.

"The entire range of products by Decowood is made from A+ grade veneers with termite- and borer-resistance. As a result, the lifespan of a veneer is much more, and you have a product that will last for years to come," explains Parul Mittal about Decowood Veneers, a brand from Greenlam Industries.

Since veneers are made with thin layers of wood glued together, they are more susceptible to water damage which is why it is necessary to always wipe any spills with a damp cloth. Additionally, the installation of veneers requires skilled workers, who ensure that there are no roadblocks in the process. Wood veneers require regular maintenance to ensure durability. Having said that, it is critical to use a sealant on the surface of veneers if your space is prone to excessive and prolonged exposure to water.

Decowood also uses patented and highly advanced

MITT (Melamine Impregnated Tacking Technology), which ensures perfect bonding of the veneer with the substrate, resulting in high bonding strength of veneers.

Chowdhury explains that the advantages of using veneer outweigh the disadvantages. "Variety, exclusivity, bespoke interiors and low-maintenance are the advantages, and the only disadvantage is the availability of premium species and cost, when compared to artificial substitutes for cladding such as laminates."

The other advantages of using veneer are that it is easy to install; easy to polish and repolish; can be used overall or as a highlight; is affordable; has a classy rich appearance; and is available in many finishes and varieties. The only disadvantage, according to Kumpal, is that it can be attacked by white ants.

Wood veneer is a cost-conscious, sustainable choice if you want the elegant design of wood without the high price and overuse of natural resources. Overall, wood veneer is a versatile material, and its popularity in modern design is a great opportunity for new and creative projects. ■