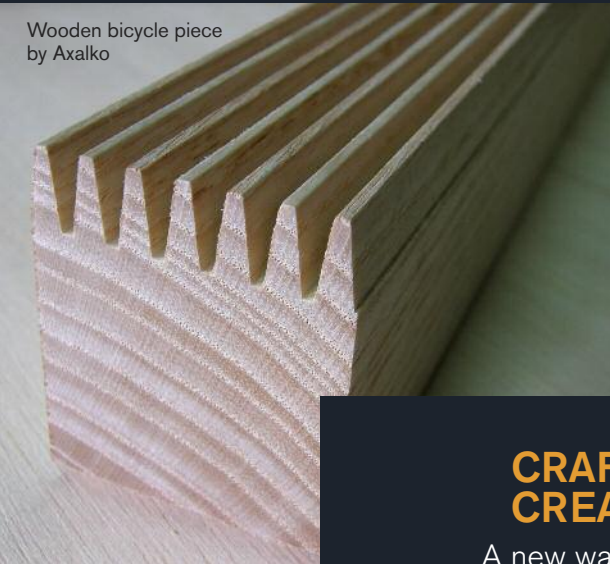


Wooden bicycle piece
by Axalko



Forest by Santa & Cole,
Parque de Belloch

CRAFT AND CREATIVITY

A new way of working
with wood

"The only way to be original is by returning to the origins," so said Antonio Gaudí, perhaps Spain's most famous architect. With its many cultural influences and its eclectic mix of architectural styles, Spain's history offers endless inspiration. What we see in the world of Spanish design today is the output of a fresh generation of artisans who choose to work with wood and traditional craft. From Moorish roofs to handmade bicycles, Monocle explores some of the projects that are capturing the world's attention.

Fauna skewers by Nadadora



Delica Tray by Zoo Creative



BD Barcelona Design chair
by Konstantin Grcic



Wooden islands by Vicente
Gullart and Equipamientos
Gestalt, Valencia



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NUÑEZ RIBOT ARQUITECTOS

Cuatro50 housing project

Nuñez Ribot's project Cuatro50 shows that limited space doesn't have to limit the imagination. These houses can be fully customised, thanks to interior adjustable modules, and the Valsain pine is both beautiful and easy to live with. This is one of the winners of the 2010 Vivir con Madera awards, an initiative led by Confemadera, the Spanish confederation for the woodworking industry.



GRUPO HOLTZA

Engineering

For more than 20 years, Grupo Holtza has been leading the market when it comes to engineering and building with wood, having collaborated in almost 1,600 projects, some with top Spanish architects such as Oriol Bohigas, Santiago Calatrava and Enric Miralles. One of our favourite constructions is the Bodegas Protos in Peñafiel, Castilla. Built by Richard Rogers, this curvy winery can store 10,000 barrels of wine inside almost 20,000 sq m. It's a luxurious space made of concrete, glass and wooden beams, guaranteeing both functionality and good looks.

LOS 3 JUANES

Roof restoration

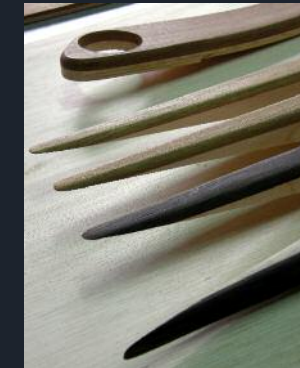
Inspired by Mudéjar art, these panels form a series of geometrical shapes made of finely intertwined wood. The work of these master carpenters is mainly exported to Bahrain and Algeria and can also be admired in the roof of the Picasso Museum in Malaga and in the restored roof of the Alhambra, incorporating the beautiful, Arabic detailing.



LOSIENTO STUDIO

Brand identity

The brand identity for the 5to Pino bar and restaurant in one of Barcelona's trendiest neighbourhoods – the Bonanova District – was designed by Borja Martinez, head of the Losiento creative studio. The three-dimensional logo for 5to Pino is made of the highest-quality pine and is one of the first examples of wooden typography to be used in the Spanish restaurant industry. Martinez's previous collaborations include designs for El Bulli restaurant and pasta maker Sandro Desii.



AXALKO

The wooden bicycle

After a long period of research the Guipúzcoa-based Axalko design team discovered that the tubular fibres of wood were perfect for creating a fast, stable bicycle frame. Built mostly by hand and conforming to professional standards, the bike is available in several colours, including the striking purplish amaranth or stripped zebrawood. The Axalko bike sets the (handle) bar high for stylish commuting.

SANTA & COLE

Landscape and lighting

This diverse group of design companies, which includes architects, designers and landscape artists, work in four areas: lighting and interior design, urban furniture, books and reforestation. Santa & Cole's nursery, north of Barcelona, has over 70 species, each with a microchip implanted in its core to records its growth. The award-winning Cesta (basket) lamp is made of cherry wood and is just the thing for a cosy living room.

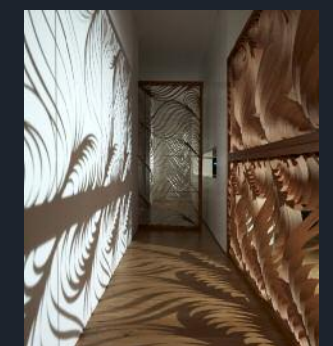
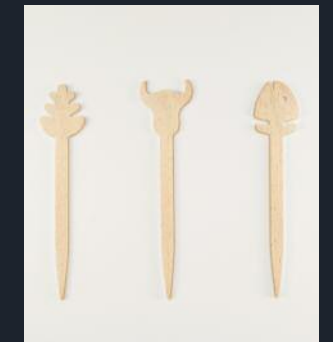


BACK TO BASICS

Three projects that stay true to their heritage

This inventive bunch have decided to stick to simplicity and use wood as their prime material, making basic yet useful commodities.

01. The foldable stand, "La cool vie Bohème" (right) by Daniel Gantes holds four dishes, two glasses, a wine bucket and a flower pot – just what's needed for a romantic meal for two.
02. Besides design, Spain is also recognised for its great food, and tapas are emblematic dishes. Fauna toothpicks (top right) by design group Nadadora are an innovative way of holding each of the ingredients together, giving food a neat finishing touch while letting the diner know what each tapa is made of.
03. This modular screen (bottom right) designed by Luis Eslava for LZF lamps is made by flexing pollywood veneer and aluminium, creating an undulating pattern that reflects a series of wavy shadows that change whenever light passes through it.





MADE FOR THE FUTURE

Tradition and innovation
in harmony

The woodworking sector in Spain is constantly evolving and adapting. Confemadera's mission is to bring new technology into all parts of the industry, so it can continue to develop new products and distinctive designs, while lowering production and distribution costs.

Spanish woodworkers are fully embracing new challenges and opportunities in this traditional sector. The designers and architects presented here highlight the versatility and beauty of wood – whether in its natural state or transformed through recycling. They serve as a vivid image of Spain's craftsmanship and creativity – an enduring mark of excellence.



The Scantling lamp by Mathias Hahn for Marset



Sala de Barricas of Vega Sicilia by Fernando Salas and Eusebio Sanchez

Bodegas Ysios by Santiago Calatrava, Grupo Holtza



Wooden screen by Estudi Borrell Arquitectes, ebLAB and Gregory Ross Getman (Vivir con Madera award)



Egurra, by Edroso, Fernández, Muñiz (Vivir con Madera award)


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