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Designer style, artisan skills and a local focus. These are the factors that allow LaCividina to export Italian elegance worldwide and foster sustainability

Just under ten kilometres to the north-east of Udine lies the small town of Martignacco. This is where a company is based that could not be anywhere else. It is LaCividina, the armchair and sofa manufacturer founded in 1976 by Carlo Bulfoni and deeply rooted in this area. First of all, it is bound to the textile traditions of the Friuli region, as well as to the world of family-run businesses that here, perhaps more than anywhere else, is the true source of capitalism.

LaCividina collections

The brand is currently captained by the chairman Fulvio Bulfoni, 55, the son of the founder and husband of the CEO Paola Mesaglio, who deals with the managerial side of operations.

Founded as an experimental workshop at the service of large companies in the sector, LaCividina started its own production thanks to an intuition by the then young Fulvio, who had just joined the company at the end of a career as a professional high jumper and after a long apprenticeship made of summers spent, as it was customary back then, among looms, sewing machines, artisans and designers.

The first lines under the LaCividina brand were presented in 99/2000 and designed by two promising figures, Peter Harvey and Gianni Rossetti. The debut was so well received that more than two decades later, those first collections are still in the catalogue, together with models created by established masters such as Pierre Paulin, Constance Guisset and Sebastian Herkner, or by talented figures nurtured by Bulfoni himself, such as Skrivo - real name Stefan Krivokapic - the designer of the Pinch sofa that received a special mention during the Golden Compass awards of 2018.

Although the residential market has grown a lot in the past two years, LaCividina's production is focused above all on contract-style orders, which account for approximately 70% of business. The Martignacco-made furniture has been chosen, among others, by Louis Vuitton, Dior, Van Cleef & Arpels and Chanel for their boutiques, showrooms, runway shows and events. Then there are airports, cruise liners, opera theatres, hotels.

LaCividina is now present in 72 countries around the world, and it exports almost 90% of its products, particularly to the USA, Scandinavia and the United Arab Emirates. However, the last two years has also recorded excellent results on the domestic front thanks especially to the trust granted by interior designers.

Apart from the fabrics, which mostly come from Denmark for reasons of quality, all of the manufacturing phases involve labour and materials sourced from a radius of 50 km from the Martignacco plant. It is a focus on local supplies that is a source of great pride for a company that provides direct employment for 30 people, as well as approximately 80 more through satellite activities.

Working in line with production criteria also has an important collateral effect; LaCividina's products and processes are sustainable. All the fabrics have been or can be recycled, while the finished products, made without the use of glue, can be completely broken down and therefore in turn can be recovered.

Opening image: Osaka, the iconic sofa designed by Pierre Paulin in 1967 and produced today by LaCividina



**Twirl, an armchair designed by
Gordon Guillamier for
LaCividina and presented at
the recent International
Furniture Fair. It combines the
elements of seating, writing
desk and screen, creating a
niche for working and relaxing
in total privacy**



**An overhead view of two Twirl
armchairs**



**LaCividina pays tribute to
Pierre Paulin with a new
edition of the Osaka sofa.
Designed in 1967, it has
sinuous lines and was created
to be assembled in a range of
forms, thanks to its flexible
modular construction**

Photo Studio Eye; rendering Nudesign
Studio



**Another configuration of the
Osaka sofa**



The Bernard collection by Nina Mair developed around the chair, which stands out for the versatility of the backrest and arms that, made with identical and simple modules, can vary their function in accordance with the desired direction of the seat



**One of the many possible
configurations of the Bernard
collection**



Node+ designed by Ben van Berkel/UNStudio offers a “place” that, in response to new lifestyles, becomes a system responding to study, work and socialisation needs



**One of the many possible
configurations of the Node+
system**



**Another new item presented
during the recent Milan Design
Week: Taco designed by
Alessandro Stabile and made
with a shell composed of two
layers of natural felt and an
extremely slim core in spring
steel**



**The colors of the Taco
collection**



**The Timo collection by
Federica Biasi is an excellent
expression of the know-how of
LaCividina and its artisan
attention to detail also applied
to the lightest of surfaces**



**Trestle-based easy chair from
the Timo collection**



**Seating from the Waves
collection created by
Constance Guisset for
LaCividina in the coworking
space of the Paris branch of
Van Cleef & Arpels**

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