

## **COPPER CAPTIVATES DESIGNERS**

**Well-known amongst architects, copper is increasingly captivating designers who are rediscovering the properties of this precious material and using it in a wide range of applications: from lighting to fireplaces not to mention furniture and accessories. From Florence to Milan, countless designers are showing that copper blends seamlessly with design, performance and concerns for the environment.**

### **Italy celebrates copper's design qualities**

The "Pitti Uomo Exhibition" in **Florence** (Italy), one of the most well-known International fashion events held from January 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>, 2005, paid tribute to copper's modernity by displaying a copper chain curtain, measuring 9.3 metres across and 3 metres high. Created by the young British designer Marc Krusin, this curtain-screen put together from 22,000 laser-cut metal pieces to form a technical and artistic master piece.

For the second year running, **Milan** was host to the annual "Abitare con il Rame" exhibition (Living with Copper), held at the end of 2004 and focused on the use of copper in interior design. The **2004 event**, which no longer displayed prototypes but commercially available products, offered an astonishing collection of creations on the "Light and Heat" theme. The displays included lighting, fireplace accessories and radiators created by talented young designers, all appreciating copper's aesthetic and technical properties.

### **Free flowing shapes**

Copper's malleability and ductility, together with its strong corrosion resistance, make it the material of choice for the manufacture of complex objects with free flowing and ethereal shapes. Copper works equally well as a rod or woven flex, for spectacular lighting, as it does as a plate, sheet or pipe in, for example, radiators treated as works of art. Copper can be easily beaten and pierced, opening up vast possibilities for designers looking for a material that is both hardwearing and supple.

### **Physical properties revisited**

Copper's electrical conductivity – the best among non precious metals – have always made it the material of choice for electrical applications. While copper's thermal conductivity plays an essential role for heat transfer, copper is also naturally used in heating elements. Durable (copper tubing in the water plumbing system in Egypt's ancient Cheops Pyramid is still intact after 5,000 years), copper is also naturally anti-bacterial, which is why it has traditionally been used for door handles, banisters... Nowadays, designers are revisiting these physical properties for elegant and efficient lighting, fireplace accessories and radiators.

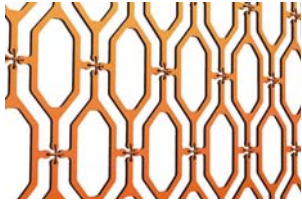
### **Ecological design: copper's recycling advantage**

Copper's modernity also includes its recycling properties. 100% recyclable, without any loss of performance or quality, copper can be used, recycled and reused over and over again. While ecological design requirements take into account environmental considerations right from product design to finished product, copper's recycling property remains an important sustainable benefit. Designers make no mistake in selecting copper referring to its high-performance and well-organised recycling channels. In Europe, more than 40% of the annual copper usage, i.e. 2 million tonnes, is met through recycling (*Source: International Copper Study Group*).

**Aesthetics: a wide range of colours**

Copper's natural colour is salmon pink, but it is above all known for its auburn hues as a result of surface oxidation; this colour is very sought-after in interior design, as is the very bright yellow of brass (zinc and copper alloy), which is more or less deep depending on the zinc content. Certain colour specialists nevertheless retain copper's mineral colour, the precious green of malachite, or its sheen effect: as a result of oxidation, copper in fact initially turns dark brown, then a clear green sheen which protects it from any subsequent oxidation.

**Illustrations:**



**CURTAIN**  
**Design Marc Krusin**  
 Curtain-screen



**SKY**  
**Design Laura Sonzogni**  
**Production Estro**  
 Radiator made from a large coil of a single copper pipe



**TOUCH**  
**Design Randi Kristen**  
**Production Guerra**  
 A series of fireplace accessories

**LIGHT**  
**Design Roberto Cutoli**  
**Production Lucifero**  
 Table lamp comprised of a bouquet of adjustable copper rods.  
 Copper and silicon glass



**CIRCLE**  
**Design Francesco Giannatasio**  
**Production Modo**  
 Table lamp



**FIRE**  
**Design Didier Leconte**  
**Production Guerra**  
 A series of fireplace accessories



***Other illustrations available on request, including film (BETA – 4'25'')***

**About the European Copper Institute:**

The European Copper Institute is a joint venture between the world's mining companies (represented by the International Copper Association, Ltd.) and the leading European fabricators. Its mission is to promote copper's benefits to modern society across Europe through its Brussels office and its network of eleven Copper Development Associations. [www.eurocopper.org](http://www.eurocopper.org)

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