

*The stone is a natural material that comes from the earth. It is irregular, imperfect, unique, charming and never equal to itself. The stone is the material of the past, of memory. It was used for monuments that defy time, for the most important and sacred places, for the busiest streets and squares; it was also used for basins and mortars, mills and hearths, as if stone could combine faith in eternity and faith in everyday solidity. As opposed to the elasticity of metals, stone offered weighty resistance, the solidity of gravity, the force to support the weight of the world. Stones are multicolored fragments of that world. The new technologies and ways of working opened up interesting possibilities, making stone a ductile material, ready for shaping, no longer relegated to the use of sheets and strips in architectural facings, but with opportunities for experimentation on a three-dimensional, sculptural level that was the exclusive province of art, until a short time ago. This is a new line of research that found main applications in the field of design, starting a process of rehabilitation and revitalization of this material and taking on a fully contemporary aspect.*

### **Company profile**

LITHEA "sensitive forms of stone" is a brand of interior design made in Italy was founded in 2008 by Patrizia Furnari, in collaboration with MGM FURNARI historic Italian company with half a century of experience in the processing of stone materials.

LITHEA is a company which cultivates experimentation and encourages Italian craftsmanship, while following the logic of series in its production and distribution of its products worldwide.

Production Technology, especially, makes use of the numerical control of the block of material processed and employs computerized systems for the first stages of manufacture, the stone being hand crafted by specialist stone masons only once this initial treatment has been carried out.

The decision to compete with the design, linking its name to internationally renowned designers, to bring to the field of stone materials exceptional changes in terms of design, technological innovation, production and finishing, is the new and impressive rule on which LITHEA has set the future professional and productive route. LITHEA reinvents the face of the stone material allowing it to enter fully between the materials of contemporaneity. The stone reveals sensitive forms giving life to communicative skins in continuous transformation and to elements of furniture by the strong personality and characteristics of absolute uniqueness.

*"The marble becomes light, almost clear, to touch, caress, use. To fill with water, essence, light."*

## **LITHEA**

di Patrizia Furnari  
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**Fuorisalone 2012 – 16/22 aprile**

**Magna Pars Design**

**Via Tortona, 15 – Milan**

**LITHEA** “The sensible shapes of the stone”, in occasion of the next **Fuorisalone** of **Tortone Design Week** is present at the exhibition “**Home Spa Design – living the design – Emotional Living**” from 16 to 22 April at the **Magna Pars Design**, with **SURFING THE FUTURE**, an unpublished installation signed by the architect **Marco Piva**.

The three marble textures designed by Marco Piva for Lithea in occasion of the Salone del Mobile 2012 become part of a broadest subject to update the planning languages, moving from an assumption that the effects got by the different and polychromatic texturization of the marbles, as the respective craft and working techniques, can become the starting planning point for products and projects of a design with a contemporary taste and with a typically italian “lifestyle”.

Morse, Digital Flower and Quark create a charming and variable game of lights and shadows, where it's strong the contrast between transparency and opacity and between lightness and weight.

*“I always considered the marble and the stone not as inert material, but as lively and sensitive material, as volumes and surfaces to model, to carve, to texturize.”*

Through the patient work of ancient manual techniques, as through the surprising action of the new chemical and mechanical technologies, these archaic materials and archetypes of the architectural and stylistic manufactures, express new and surprising shapes and surfaces, without revealing their secret nature.

**With Lithea continues my creative way in the wonderful marble world and in occasion of the Show “Surfing the Future” we developed three new Surfaces:**

**Digital Flowers, Morse and Quark.**

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**Digital Flower**

Digital Flower that, derived from ancient oriental graphics, offers a delicate design realized through a series of perforations distributed on the marble surface

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**Morse**

Morse instead, resumes the rhythms of the QR codes, necessary to the new processes of digital reading of the informations, "computerizes" ironically but also estetically a material that historically was always used to take back written "informations" and permanent engravings.

*"A material, the stone, that from the first writings forms until today allowed through the milleniums, the transmitting of the human culture."*

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**Quark**

Quark that, following the traces left by the subatomic particles, offers an intensively animated and dynamic surface.

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**Unna a** self standing  
Washbasin in Bianco Carrara marble.

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**Round** design Fabio Fazio

Small cylindrical details emerge from the stony surface.

The regular frame dissolves and then recomposes to the heart of the three modules in different-sized circular shapes. The composition becomes an embroidery that the light caresses enhancing the colors, the texture and the charm of the stone material.

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