**ALPI and the Asplund Pavilion for *Vatican Chapels***

**at the 16th International Architecture Exhibition of the Venice Biennale**

For the 16th International Architecture Exhibition of the Venice Biennale (26 May – 25 November 2018), **ALPI** has been selected as one of the producers of the first **Pavilion of the Holy See, *Vatican Chapels*,** at Fondazione Cini on the Island of San Giorgio Maggiore.

In the context of this project **ALPI** has built the **Asplund Pavilion** by the architects **Francesco Magnani and Traudy Pelzel,** conceived as the introduction to the Pavilion of the Holy See.

*Vatican Chapels,* curated by Francesco Dal Co, unfolds in an **exhibition itinerary** through **eleven works of architecture** created by eleven architecture firms, starting with the model of the **Woodland Chapel** designed in 1920 by the famous architect **Gunnar Asplund** in the Woodland Cemetery of Stockholm, prompting reflections on the chapel typology, which the Swedish architect defined as *“a place of orientation, encounter, meditation and salutation.”*

The **Asplund Pavilion** produced by ALPI embodies the essence of the project in the architecture of the building itself, based on the **vocabulary of traditional Scandinavian wooden constructions** – “stave churches” – and containing an exhibition of **original drawings by Gunnar Asplund** for the Woodland Chapel.

The **architectural structure** – with a length of about 11 and a height of 8 meters – is organized as a **prismatic form** similar to that of a crystal, and **entirely clad in ALPI wood.** The company has developed an **experimental** **material** used for the external facings of the construction, made with **9000 wood shingles** that enhance the external image of the building; the interior is completely faced in **ALPI Xilo 2.0 Striped White,** developed in collaboration with Piero Lissoni, to create a muted, intimate atmosphere.

*“The surfaces we have produced for this project, both outside and inside, are very different from each other; the characteristics of each are enhanced in their juxtaposition. While for the interior the designers have chosen one of our most successful Xilo woods, for the exterior the architects Magnani and Pelzel asked me to create a completely new product: dark gray shingles, “like a dragon’s skin,” as Francesco Magnani so effectively puts it.”*

**Vittorio Alpi**

The Asplund Pavilion represents another emblematic example of the company’s **intense relationship with the world of design,** in which **material and cultural quality** and a unique **approach to projects** formulate **new aesthetic dimensions** in relation to the product.

**ALPI** explores this world through the transformation and evolution of materials, redefining their intrinsic characteristics and offering different **materic realities** based on the world of nature – absolutely evocative in terms of forms and colors – and the world of design par excellence, marked by great originality and visual impact.

The **ongoing formal and stylistic research on wood materials** is reflected in the company’s approach of **concentration and passion** for the visual arts and the world of design, **through innovative and original offerings combined with cultural projects connected with the material.**

*“For the Asplund Pavilion, in just a few months we have developed this experimental product that is a complete novelty in the context of our output. This is the type of challenge that stimulates us, to achieve beauty while solving new technical problems, one by one, as they arise. This time the challenge was not easy, but we accepted it with enthusiasm, and we are very pleased to have gotten beyond what we believed were some of our limitations. All of us at the company are proud to have made a contribution to this exceptional project with our work.”*

**Vittorio Alpi**

*Vatican Chapels*

Pavilion of the Holy See

16th International Architecture Exhibition of the Venice Biennale

26 May – 25 November

opening 24-25 May

**ALPI**

*Leader in the production of* ***decorative surfaces in reconstituted wood veneer,*** *ALPI was the first company in the world to industrialize this manufacturing process: Alpilignum, realized through the breakdown and following reconstruction of an original wood trunk, offers* ***countless design approaches and subsequently as many aesthetical outcomes.***

*A* ***professional partner*** *of leading brands and major manufacturers of automobiles and yachts, as well as prestigious names in furniture, product design, interior architecture and contract, ALPI stands out on the worldwide scene for its* ***direct control of the entire process, from the log to the finished product,*** *starting with forest management. The company guarantees the legal and sustainable sourcing of the wood and total product traceability. ALPI is therefore a guarantee of an* ***eco-responsible product.***

*This is made possible by major investments in R&D, raw materials of the highest quality, avant-garde technology and the finest tailor-made craftsmanship. Other important features of the company are its vast range of products and great ability to respond to the specific requirements of a* ***highly diversified client base.*** *This includes**the design and development of* ***customized solutions which can be replicated over time.*** *An innovation path that continues with the collaboration with Piero Lissoni as company’s art director since 2015.*

*Today ALPI – helmed by Vittorio Alpi, the founder’s grandson - is developed on different industrial facilities, which occupy 450 people in Italy and more than 1550 in Africa. In 2017 the Alpilignum production capacity resulted in 20million square meters and the products are distributed in over than 60 countries.*

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