

Molteni & C

The Molteni Group

The Molteni Group is one of Italy's leading furnishings companies. It consists of four companies, each one at the forefront of its sector: Molteni&C S.p.A. (home furnishings), Unifor S.p.A. (office furnishings), Dada S.p.A. (kitchens) and Citterio S.p.A.. Molteni offers global furnishing in Italy and in over fifty countries all over the world.

The Group goes back a long way, starting out in the thirties as a small craftsman's business. From the fifties on Molteni grew considerably, taking the decision to move into industrial production. The seventies saw the firm restructure into three separate companies due to growth and market demand. Today Molteni is one of the few groups guaranteeing an integrated cycle - it has total control over every aspect of production, from the choice of materials to the final definition of the product. The current four companies have developed an expansive synergy as regards technology, research, and development of new products in response to changes in the home and in the workplace.

The Molteni Group has always worked in partnership with Italian and international designers of note such as Foster+Partners, Jean Nouvel, Alvaro Siza, Pier Luigi Cerri, Michele De Lucchi, Rodolfo Dordoni, Ferruccio Laviani, Luca Meda, Dante Bonuccelli, Bruno Reichlin, Aldo Rossi, Afra and Tobia Scarpa, Hannes Wettstein, Patricia Urquiola, Yabu Pushelberg, Arik Levy and Monica Armani, Ron Gilad, Matteo Nunziati.

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Molteni&C combines advanced technology with old fashioned tradition. From the seventies on, it has taken a distinctive direction: that of ongoing research into the modular furnishings sector, working with Luca Meda to produce a series of ideas for every room in the house, from the wardrobe to the living area to the study/ home office. Its highly successful sets of modular furnishings such as 505, Gliss5th and Pass, just to name a few, are in constant evolution. Molteni is considered a leader in this sector.

Over and above these success stories, Molteni has been producing a wide range of single pieces of furniture since the eighties which can be combined to create an elegant and functional environment. Starting from the furnishings recalling traditional ways of life typical of Aldo Rossi's designs, Molteni reached the nineties with furniture designed by Jean Nouvel, where minimalism combined with advanced technology. In 2004, in parallel with expansion into foreign markets, a new "Upholstery

Division" was created: based on a strong drive towards product innovation along with control over all aspects of their production and careful ongoing research into materials and upholstery.

Molteni furnishings incorporate the know how of a long tradition of craftsmanship with innovative technology, useful but never shown off. When speaking of Molteni, the talk is of *hidden quality*, technical quality, functional quality, materials: present but often invisible. *Molteni quality* is well known in Italy, where the Group has its headquarters, but is also internationally renowned; Molteni exports to the main world markets through a network of over 350 sales outlets, ten of which are single-brand stores dedicated to the Molteni&C and Dada brands, such as the Flagship Stores in London, Paris and New York.

The designers who work with Molteni make elegant, comfortable furniture which is also strong and attentive to detail. Created from precious woods and thoroughly checked materials, these are furnishings which mean the client can take advantage of the wealth of choice and the unvarying good taste and create their own *Molteni House*.

Single items and modular systems, sofas and armchairs are today designed for a home of sober elegance and carefree simplicity, offering solutions to the new problems posed by changes in the modern lifestyle and informatics, with the development of *home entertainment* and the *home office*. Molteni offers highly functional furnishings to house informatics systems, TV and hi-fi equipment and make it easier to use.

Since 2005 Molteni has been agent for the Vitra Home Collection, by Vitra AG. in Italy, with its classic designs by Charles and Ray Eames and Verner Panton, along with new ideas from up and coming young designers like the Bouroullec brothers and Hella Jongerius.

Molteni also works on largescale projects like hotels, museums, ships, chain stores, hospitals and theatres. Recent projects include the furnishings for cruise ships for important lines such as Holland America Line, P&O, Walt Disney, Cunard and Costa Crociere, built in the Fincantieri shipyards as well as private yachts for the Benetti shipbuilders; furnishings for Cartier boutiques all over the world and the Cartier Foundation in Paris, the new interiors for the Fenice Theatre in Venice and the new Concert Hall in Athens. Molteni has also recently collaborated with Merck Serono in Geneva, with the Mambo Museum in Bologna, with Van Cleef&Arpels in Paris and with the Hotel Danieli restaurant in Venice.

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