

lapalma COMPANY PROFILE

The story of Lapalma is a story of a family, of hard work and, above all, passion.

Insight, determination, know-how and a passion as impenetrable as metal, a material that the company has been skilfully processing for over thirty years and that it combines with wood, hide, fabrics and other innovative materials to give shape to furnishing elements with timeless clear-cut lines.

In 1980, the brothers Dario and Romano Marcato set up their own business to create a company, in Cadoneghe near Padova, which immediately began to select natural and recyclable materials.

Year after year, by introducing new materials and investing in state-of-the-art machinery, Lapalma has specialised in producing furniture for the contract segment.

The company's partnerships with internationally renowned designers gave rise to products that are a perfect combination of design and aesthetic appeal: chairs, tables, lounge chairs and stools - such as the iconic LEM, designed, in 2000, by Shin+Tomoko Azumi – allowing the company to become part of international projects, from hotels to stores, museums and airports, and receive various acknowledgements.

In 2010, we inaugurated our current headquarters: 14,500 sq.m of fluid, bright spaces powered by solar energy. All our products, 47 families and 196 items, are created here and then distributed to 81 countries.

Since 2013, under the guidance of Francesco Rota, the company's art director, we have been looking to the future with the same energy: the purely Italian nature of products has been strengthened and new colours and softness introduced. With a wider range of products, new design worlds have been explored and new markets targeted.

The story of an Italian garage

We work where we were born. We could say that we have been “locally sourced” for forty years because we made our first furniture in a garage, a few metres from home, in Cadoneghe, at the weekends. It took us hours to make a small table. Today, it takes us fifty seconds to shape the continuous sinuous line of the LEM stool. We have changed because we have remained faithful to ourselves and to what we love the most, technology, a knowledge of materials, research and determination. Before becoming the company Lapalma, we worked for NASA, making transistor capsules, a few millimetres of total precision, using a gauge instead of a tape measure. Some of our products must have arrived on the moon, whereas we stayed with our feet firmly on the ground, which means concreteness and courage. We have always been farsighted, however, looking for innovative ideas, new markets and fresh strategies, even when, in the early 1990s, we decided to focus on seating and then, ten years later and after achieving many international awards, we transformed our collections into a system of versatile minimalist products, ideal for all environments. In the early 1980s, when we moved from the garage to a disused distillery, we took part in our first trade fair, in Padua. Our agent at the time, presented three small tables, which were a great success, and orders began to arrive from the most prestigious shops in the north of Italy. “And now, what are we going to do?”, we asked ourselves. “Now, you will make them”, replied the agent. And we did precisely that. To make our products and continuously improve, we chose state-of-the-art machinery and customised it based on our experience. To make furniture and implement projects, even the most difficult ones created by our amazing designers, we focused on automation. Nevertheless, we wanted manual craftsmanship to go hand-in-hand with technology: a complex assembly phase, a step, or rather two, of sandpapering with different grain sizes to ensure perfect details, and the smoothing of fabrics. In 2010, we inaugurated our current headquarters, 14,500 sq.m of fluid, bright and “green” spaces, because we chose solar energy. Each product, with its intricate complexity, is created here and then distributed to 81 countries. We work hard. Then the weekend arrives. As children, we would go and watch car races and we imagined that the speed of those cars and the beauty of those lines in the wind were ours. We still like sports cars today. Just as we like tending to our vegetable garden and spending time with the family. We grew up in this way, together and free, in the local area.

Dario and Romano Marcato

Collecting worlds

The Artistic Direction of Francesco Rota

Francesco Rota met Dario and Romano Marcato in spring 2012, at the Salone del Mobile di Milano. That summer, he presented the OLO chair and the CUT chair. It was the first step in a partnership that led to devising a strategy together, a new vision and a new horizon.

The Marcato brothers entrusted Francesco Rota with the artistic direction of the company. A year later, in spring 2013, the presence of Lapalma at the Salone del Mobile acquired a different dimension. New colours, new softness and, above all, an Italian spirit that became a style, a declaration of intent, the dimension of a complex system. A set of values, which all of Lapalma's designers, although living in other countries, share.

Under the artistic direction of Francesco Rota, the company explores new worlds of design that shape our days and our lives: Lounge, Light Office, Outdoor, Café, Home and Outdoor.

Products are created featuring the utmost versatility while flexible design projects furnish different environments with their distinct personality. A collection of worlds created to accommodate and connect people.

Italian production

Workshop | Carpentry | Upholstery Lab | Assembly

Lapalma's products reflect the passion and culture of a "made in Italy" business, a skilful combination of industrial production and attention to details.

Machines produce the structure of individual elements, whereas the finishings, assembly and final touches are done manually.

Each individual item is manually and visually checked by our employees for total quality control.

Serial production and uniqueness are two apparently opposite concepts that distinguish and sum up the strong identity of a company, which, now and in the past, focuses on research, innovation and cutting-edge technology to offer solutions that are always at the forefront while meeting the most challenging demands of the contract market.

Lapalma is a company but, first and foremost, a workplace, a laboratory where the skills of expert hands are concentrated. From the Workshop to the Carpentry department, the Padded Element Laboratory and Assembly Department, each product is the outcome of experience, commitment, passion and shared values.

Sustainability

Respect for the environment and green energy

Lapalma has always paid great attention to the environment, at its factory and in the materials it uses. The company selects FSC-certified wood finishes, controlled from their very origin, raw materials and totally recyclable materials such as wood, steel, plywood and fabric.

The use of plastic materials is reduced to a minimum and local suppliers are preferred in order to avoid transport over long distances. Respect for the environment is now an intrinsic and shared value within the company, a factor that has allowed Lapalma to obtain important certifications issued by the German certification body TÜV: ISO EN 9001 certification, which rewards the efficiency and quality of the production cycle and ISO EN 14001 certification, which acknowledges respect for the environment.

As for the factory, we have added 3,500 square metres to the existing 11,000 square metres. In addition to photovoltaic panels, which guarantee complete self-sufficiency in terms of energy, we have taken new measures related to sustainability: geothermal probes now allow us to use underground heat for underfloor heating and air conditioning throughout the company, thus reducing gas consumption. Traditional lamps have been replaced with LEDs throughout all departments; the latest generation machinery has been installed (above all, the new system for cutting tubular metal using an optical-fibre laser system, instead of a traditional laser), which allows energy savings of up to 50%.

Reducing environmental impact, thanks to a reduction in CO2 emissions and continuing to invest in innovation are the challenges that Lapalma faces with commitment and passion every day.

AWARDS

2020 AARON Archiproducts Design Award
2018 SEELA Good Design Award
2017 SCREEN Wallpaper* Design Award
2016 ADD Reddot Award
2016 ADD German Design Award
2016 ADD Menzione d'onore Compasso d'oro ADI
2010 AP Good Design Award
2012 LINK Good Design Award
2018 LEM V&A Museum
2007 ARIA Interior Innovation Award
2000 LEM FX - International interior design awards
2000 LEM Interior Innovation Award

DESIGNERS

Anderssen & Voll
Antti Kotilainen
Enzo Berti
Fabio Bortolani
Francesco Rota
Hee Welling
Karri Monni
Leonardo Rossano
Patrick Norguet
Pio&Tito Toso
Romano Marcato
Shin Azumi
Takashi Shinozaki
Shin & Tomoko Azumi
Tomoya Tabuchi

Company profile

Lapalma srl

Founders and owners	Dario and Romano Marcato
Year of foundation	1980
Headquarters and Factory	Cadoneghe (PD)
Total surface area of the company	14.500 mq
Number of employees	60
Export share 2019	93%
Italian agencies	2
International agencies	16
Stores in Italy	252
Stores abroad	1763