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A&Q

Object Carpet

Matteo Thun and Antonio Rodriguez

As sustainability continues to drive change in the hotel sector, designers Matteo Thun and Antonio Rodriguez reveal more about their eco-conscious collaboration with Object Carpet.

What was the inspiration behind the Mediterraneo range?

We sought to find a haptic materiality and differentiated shades that were yet to exist in recycled carpets. Made from plastic waste and fully recyclable, Mediterraneo simultaneously represents lightness and effortlessness. It also conveys a Mediterranean heritage look – hence the name. For our architectural and interior projects, we always need a timeless, waste-free floorcovering that we can pull from the inside out to bring nature indoors.

How does the range combine functionality and aesthetics?

Mediterraneo relieves the burden on nature by enabling countless lifecycles, making it suitable for many hospitality projects. We are currently designing three vessel variants for Italian yacht manufacturer Azimut, where the carpet must be durable and easy to clean as well as being sustainable, quick-drying and UV-resistant. And of course, it must also feel good underfoot.

What can the carpet collection bring to hospitality spaces?

Mediterraneo is designed to fill a gap in the contract market, serving as a collection crafted from plastic waste that can be used both indoors and outdoors – in different shapes and sizes, including rectangle or round options – to match individual needs. The material, weave and finish are able to withstand the high volume of traffic common in hotel projects, and offer a conscious flooring option to hoteliers, giving them the opportunity to recycle. Global hospitality clientele are increasingly making decisions based on sustainable criteria – recycling being one of them.

How can sustainable products drive the industry forward?

The current debate on the environment, climate change and sustainable consumption, as well as the visions of scientists and philosophers – who attribute a healing role to nature and the flora – and the activities of international conservationists have made us all aware of the climate crisis. Everyone has their own part to play, but as architects and designers, we have a great responsibility because what we design lasts over time. We should reinvent ourselves to protect our planet and give our children what we experienced when we were young. We believe we can make a strong contribution to a simpler, healthier and better life.

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