

## Schotten & Hansen Company Profile

Schotten & Hansen is an artisanal manufacturer of wooden floors and interiors. With specialist expertise in materials research, craft tradition and intelligent technology, the company finishes wooden surfaces and develops solutions for premium architectural interiors. The product portfolio spans all relevant indoor areas, from hand-finished timber floorboards and superior parquet floorings to tailored interior fittings. This includes timber cladding, acoustic panels, doors, stairs and complementary products, such as cabinet panels and skirting. The international timber expert offers planners a modular, coordinated range of different grades, structures, colours as well as backing materials. As a result, the manufacturer takes interior design with timber to the next level of versatility. Schotten & Hansen also supports its customers with services that go far above and beyond production and assembly of wooden products. Project processing also includes individual product solutions and extensive logistics, prefabrication or assembly services. Schotten & Hansen implements comprehensive projects in over 100 countries, from private homes to hotels, as well as public buildings and yacht construction. The trust-based partnerships that have been built over years include co-operations with Antonio Citterio's architecture firm, the Royal Huisman shipyard and **Christian Liaigre**. Schotten & Hansen products can be found in the Soho Hotel in London, in Munich's Nymphenburg Palace, and the lounge areas in Doha Airport, Qatar, among other places. Besides the headquarters in Peiting, Upper Bavaria, the manufacturer is represented internationally with branches and showrooms in Europe, the USA, Hong Kong and the United Arab Emirates.

### Intermediary between nature and architecture

The company was founded more than 30 years ago by Torben Hansen from Denmark, and since then, it has grown from a small restoration company to one of the most renowned international specialists in wooden floors and interiors, with 120 employees. From the outset, a deep respect for nature, fascination for wood as a material and the clear commitment to innovation were key motivating factors in Torben Hansen's work. This led to Schotten & Hansen's ambition to make the most of wood's potential as a material and develop every product and do every job as well as possible. "Trees often have to grow for 200 years before we use them. That is an amazing natural achievement, which we should not destroy through

carelessness,” is how Hansen, the visionary, describes the manufacturer’s approach. He adds: “On the contrary, it is our responsibility to reshape this achievement respectfully. Accordingly, we see ourselves as intermediaries between nature and architecture.” For Hansen, continuous innovation in a team with many product development and project planning experts means constantly assessing all possibilities, even outside what is conventionally conceivable and feasible. In close cooperation with an international network of architects, craftspeople, manufacturers and the industry, the company implements new solutions in the most demanding projects worldwide with an interdisciplinary approach.

### **Modular variety and services**

Around the world, architects and developers who want wooden surfaces in perfect quality with optimised design choose Schotten & Hansen. The company sees itself as a companion, and can contribute a wealth of expertise in coping with challenging spaces. Working with Schotten & Hansen is characterised by the company’s willingness to develop individual solutions for projects. Accordingly, besides the broad modular range, the manufacturer also offers custom products, which meet specific acoustic or fire safety requirements, for example, as well as premium services. Worldwide, Schotten & Hansen develops and implements solutions that optimise the entire project implementation workflow, ranging from complex prefab modules and mock-ups, to detailed logistics workflows. “We don’t just deliver any old product for a given project. Each individual job shows us new ways to optimise our work. That is our aim – to make the most of a project together with our clients,” is how Torben Hansen explains the manufacturer’s special service concept.

### **Finished products for generations**

Schotten & Hansen creates particularly expressive products designed to be durable and to last generations. At the production facility, timber is optimised in its natural form, to prepare it for wood’s natural, intrinsically aesthetically perfect ageing process. Schotten & Hansen primarily achieve this with a complex multi-phase process, which derives from the expertise accumulated as a former restoration firm and is advanced through continuous research and state-of-the-art technology. The company translates this craft and technical expertise into a particularly labour-intensive finishing and manufacturing process, which is unique in its quality to Schotten & Hansen. For example, it includes cleaning the wood down to the deep pore structure, lending the wood an unrivalled purity, free of minerals and other residues.

Torben Hansen continues: “Deep-cleaning the wood is time-consuming, but extremely effective. Only pure wood can absorb the valuable essences needed later for durability.

#### **Clear commitment to ecology and healthy living environments**

Schotten & Hansen develops its products with a great sense of responsibility for the entire value cycle – from mindful use of resources, through material processing, right up to implementation, assembly and value retention in the building. After deep-cleaning the wood, Schotten & Hansen only uses essences and pigments as natural as the wood itself, developed in an in-house laboratory. As a result, the treated wood retains its natural properties, is free of emissions, has a positive balancing effect on the room climate and keeps its warm touch.

#### **The beauty of nature without artificial perfection**

Schotten & Hansen fundamentally follows the Japanese wabi-sabi view of aesthetics, which holds that true beauty lies in authenticity rather than in artificial perfection. Accordingly, irregularities in the natural wood are not corrected, they give the product its style. Material ageing and the resulting signs of wear are an intentional part of the effect. The colours are also inspired by nature. The complex multi-day colouring process, involving smoking and pigment application, ensures that the pigments penetrate deep into the pores. Only in this way can the colouring enhance the impact of the surface and develop along with the wood’s ageing process through the years. In addition to 20 standard colours, Schotten & Hansen offers a wide range of individual shades, which can be defined individually for a project. The choice of colours is inspired by the hues of wood and nature’s own palette.

#### **Maximum reliability**

The finishing quality of multilayer Schotten & Hansen floorboards guarantees that the wood does not work, regardless of the climatic conditions, and that shrinkage and gap formation are minimised. As a result, Schotten & Hansen timber floors can be combined safely with underfloor heating systems and are the only floors that retain their dimensional stability with fluctuating indoor climates – even in such extreme climates as the 5% humidity in Aspen/Colorado or 95% in Hong Kong. That gives architects maximum reliability and flexibility when using timber materials in interiors. For instance, Schotten & Hansen products’ water

resistance also makes them the only wooden floorings on the market that are suitable for laying in spa and pool areas.