



TOGETHER
for a sustainable future

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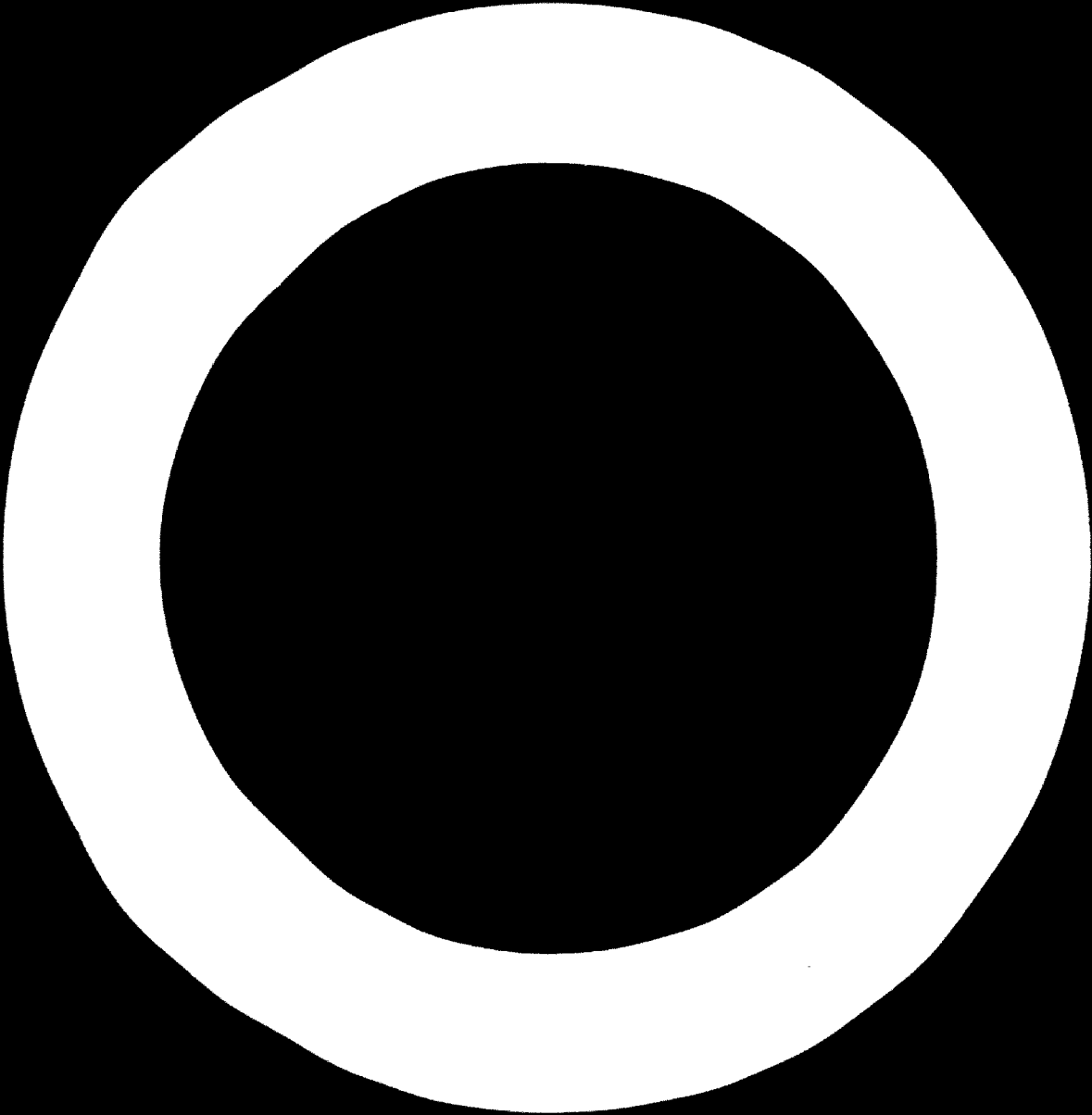
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The development of a new type of industrial structure, based on
working as a probability, is obtained by the concentration of
the worst industry in the most developed areas, the most
workshops. There are a few examples of this type of structure
a preliminary way, as well as a few examples of the most
industrial activity in the most advanced.

1) January 1950

Several industrial enterprises have been established in the
valley. Every house, community, etc. has a small workshop
transforming the tree into a assortment of products, and
transport means, etc. The production has been scattered
scattered into a large number of small enterprises, each
clearly marked character, starting up to the end of the valley.
Starting from this time a slow but regular trend is observed
concentrating the enterprises along the valley, and will be
many, and have a general organization which is not as
rational as could be hoped for. The main causes of this
situation are to be found in the excessive fragmentation of the
landed property (which is the cause of the small size of the
of woods), and in the irregular situation of the areas of forest
production, which are separated from the other, and are
poes down to the plain following the valley floor.

Starting from the period 1950 to 1955, which has really marked

the starting point of the "boom" of Italian wood industry, the sawmills were compelled to face new requirements caused by the larger and larger importation of large diameter logs from the tropical forests. The small hand saws used up to that time, which were perfectly enough for cutting coniferae and poplars, had to be replaced with other machines capable of wasing logs with diameters up to 1 m - 1.20 m. Several Italian companies have devoted themselves to this problem of sawing large logs with excellent results.

The introduction on a large scale of tropical woods in the Italian factories has attained the double effect of accelerating the concentration of the enterprises and of causing the installation of large sawmills close to the harbours where the logs imported from overseas arrived.

2) Plywoods

This industry started shyly in Italy as the end of First World War and beginning with 1950 grew rapidly on a parallel basis with the poplar growing start. As a matter of fact, up to 1955-1960 the greatest part of Italian plywoods were made with poplars. However, the better volume yield of the large stubs of tropical woods and, at the same time, the difficulty in procuring poplar logs suitable for planing, have obliged the plywood manufacturers to use tropical woods at an increasing rate, while, in order to work these logs, it was absolutely necessary to use machines specially conceived for this purpose.

Finally, the increasing use of structural laminated wood (plywood, splined or paneling panels, etc.) of increasing thicknesses (20 to 40 mm. and more), has induced the manufacturers to solve this problem with all applications related to it.

The details on modern planing machines and presses will be supplied by another speaker.

3) Cuts

The production of thin layers of decorative woods (to be applied on the surface of plain woods or on panels), has a great importance in Italy and, while formerly it was necessary to have recourse to the manufacturers of foreign countries to get some good cutting machines, nowadays the Italian industry is manufacturing excellent machines provided with really original ingenuities.

4) Fiber Panels and Chip-Boards

The first of these industries, which are chiefly using scraps of sawmills and some soft leafy wood (poplar, alder, willow trees) has not had a large expansion in Italy, even though for certain uses the fiber panels are to be preferred to the plywoods. On the other hand, the fabrication of chip-boards, which was favoured in the years between 1960 and 1970 by an abundant

production of gypsum, which is the element that supplies a first class raw material for this type of panels, has developed at a rapid pace. In 1953 the first factory for this product was launched. In 1959 there were 6 of them, in 1961 16, in 1962 27 and in 1963 40, with an overall production exceeding 3,000,000 cu. m. per year.

Although some production lines are provided with machines built in other countries, it is however opportune to underline that other plants are using machines, presses and equipment units of Italian make.

5) Wood Wool Panels

This industry is considered, in various countries, a second class one, but, in our opinion, it is capable of doing really precious services to the developing countries, because it can contribute to the solution of the prefabrication problems of cheap houses or, more generally, of any kind of constructions. These panels are obtained by wood wool mixed with mortar, cement or any other mineral agglomerative; after the setting of the agglomerate (helped and accelerated in oven) the block is submitted to a frame gang mill, which makes the panels in the desired thicknesses. It is therefore an installation of little importance about which it is possible to add some detail further on.

Perhaps it is good to remember that the wood wool called 'viruta' in Spanish and 'excelsior' in North America, has

some other important uses, for instance in the packing area for padding or to locate and protect fragile objects, glasses, etc.

6) Furniture and Joinery for indoors

After the World War, this group of industries has had a remarkable growth, which is strictly connected with the radical modification of the aims, structure and organization of work. As a matter of fact, in past times the operations were limited to copying, more or less exactly, furniture, doors or windows with characteristics which, according to the different regions, had been consecrated by centuries of tradition. It was essentially a handicraft work, almost a routine one, where the craftsmen gifted with artistic ability had the possibility of emerging and even of leading teams capable of supplying a very limited market with first class products. The economical and social evolution which took place after the war has oriented furniture and indoor fittings production in general towards entirely different bases. The problem which arises today is not that of making luxury furniture for some flats of multi-millionaires, on the contrary, it is that of making available for the middle class and the labourers some thousands of series of furniture pleasant to see, functional and not so much expensive. All this can only be obtained through a deep study of the problem and a thorough

application of the principles of industrial organization, beginning from the research for more suitable machines and for coordinating them within the production line, and ending with the mass-amounts, economic use of material and preparation of the parts to be assembled in other places, moreover the market and transport research shall not be forgotten, together with the most effective advertising and promotion means.

This new type of prospect has made inevitable the evolution of Italian furniture production causing the disappearance of a great number of joints shops or small laboratories and replacing them with a new production of large factories, with hundreds or even thousands of workers.

The manufacturers of wood-working machines have been able to take advantage of this development, by abandoning the obsolete concepts and exploiting the latest discoveries of modern techniques. The evolution mentioned above has also considered the modification of raw materials under a double point of view: the replacement of the Italian woods or of those imported from Europe with the tropical woods, and the widespread use of panels (especially chipboards) in place of solid wood.

The repute gained by Italian furniture throughout the world is a clear proof of the progress made in this field, which we hope you will be able to remark in the next days.

7) Packaging.

Packaging consumption is very thin and represents a small amount of current wood. In order to keep prices (which are equal to limits set for consumption of fish, game, and other goods) market too much, this fabrication, which is not been of the handicraft type, exclusively and made, is presently made by machines which are not only capable of sparing the worker's physical fatigue, but also of adapting themselves to the most different requirements, which go from the large cases and loading pallets, to the boxes for cheese, butter, cakes, dried fruits, etc.

From time to time advertisements of raw materials other than wood state that the age of wood, which is an absolute material, is finished and that it is necessary to have resort to all more modern things: metals, different alloys, plastics, etc. At the same time the people engaged in ecology promotion about everywhere, that nature is disappearing and that it is necessary to think of a drastic reduction of forestal applications. It seems to us that both the first and second statements are made deliberately without taking into account the objective elements which are in any case undeniable.

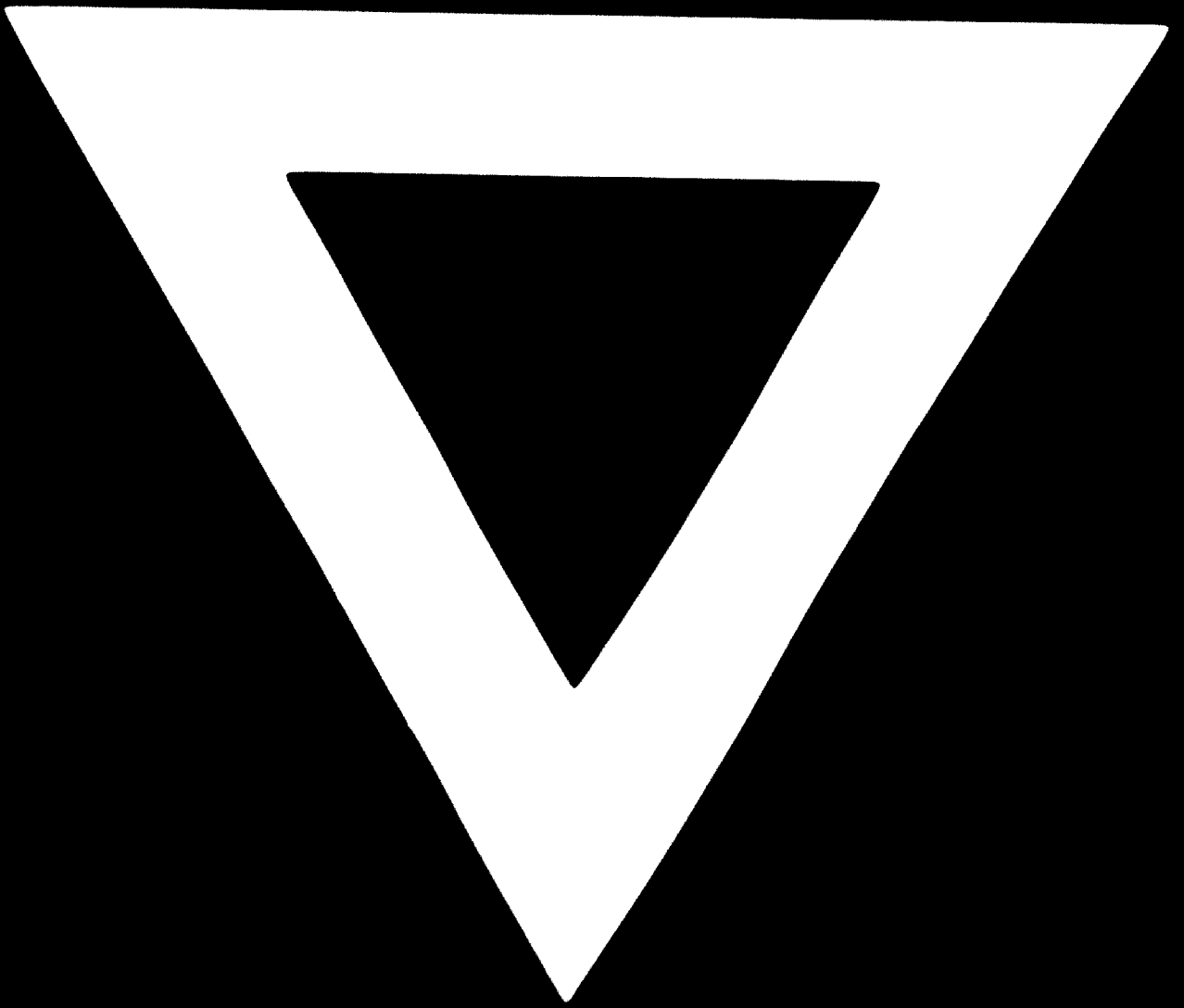
To the supporters of nature to the bitter end we say that forest exploitation, if kept within limits and rules rationally established by management, will not have any ill-omened result: we wish to perpetuate wood employment, and for this reason

we are the first to see that the forests shall be kept in their full integrity and improved wherever possible.

To the objection of cost we say that nobody is thinking to dispense with comfort and fittings for a chair are more economical than with metal or plastic instead of wood; moreover nobody will consider a wooden floor more appropriate than ceramic inside a bathroom. But at the same time it shall be acknowledged that there is no raw material so varied, intimate and numerous as wood - one could almost say "lived" - as wood is - the wood that imposes itself in the home to us as the family lives: the dining room, bedroom, living room, ...

And it is just thanks to the wood industry, for the improvement of which we have all assembled here, that we will be able to perpetuate and make more tight the bond of wood to man life - from birth to death.





76. 06. 30