**Whisperwool - the flying sheep**

Whisperwool is taking over modern architecture at a rate of knots.

Whisperwool are noise-absorbing panels made from Tyrolean sheep’s wool. Available in three natural shades, they complement the materials used in modern architecture: stone, glass, concrete, wood. Whisperwool panels are soft and pliable, yet at the same time rigid and stable. They are suspended from superficial structures on ceilings and walls using nails; the nails disappear into the wool. Joins, inspection covers, loud speakers, lights, ventilation gratings and air conditioning units almost disappear; the things which are necessary, but which you don’t need to see.

Whisperwool even makes rooms healthier. It absorbs formaldehydes, regulates room humidity and the good acoustics soothe your nerves.

Whisperwool is a new product, created by the Innbruck-based firm Tante Lotte.

**Whisperwool - the yurts of the future**

Wool has been used as a wall covering ever since people left their caves, and possibly even before that. Furs are warm and soft. The ancient nomads lived in felted yurts to protect themselves from the elements. Later, curtains and wall hangings (sometimes decorated) were used to make rooms more hospitable.

Yurts must have been cosy places. An open fire throwing shadows onto the walls and giving warmth and soft voices telling the stories of the day while the wind howls outside.

Whisperwool has taken up this tradition and creates new possibilities. Whisperwool harmonises with modern architecture, with its glass, stone and wool. Whisperwool makes the most modern of rooms cosy.

Wool is an excellent insulator. It also cleans itself and the air, absorbs noise and looks good! This was so - even if the nomads didn’t realise it at the time!

Tante Lotte also has a long tradition of working with wool. Horst Philipp, the designer and developer of Tante Lotte is the great-great-grandson of Franz Baur, who founded a loden cloth factory in Tyrol in 1814 and achieved global fame with his invention of naturally waterproof wools.

**Re-wool-ution**

Acoustic panels made from sheep’s wool - a Tante Lotte product.

New materials and technologies always brought change to construction culture: from reed huts to brick buildings, glass palaces, concrete sculptures and skyscrapers.

The materials of the future must address today’s problems, such as climate change, energy supply, dwindling resources, and protecting people’s health and the environment.

These considerations were very much at the forefront of our minds when we developed Whisperwool. Sheep’s wool captures CO2 and the panels are made by means of an energy-efficient process from wool, which is (mostly) a waste product of agriculture. Waste from the production, construction and demolition are made back into Whisperwool. There are no toxins. Quite the contrary: sheep’s wool absorbs formaldehydes and other poisonous substances.

Whisperwool blends in perfectly with the materials used in modern architecture, such as stone, concrete, wood, steel and glass. It also solves the problems of certain rooms due to its noise absorption and humidity regulation properties.

However, Whisperwool mainly wants to open up new possibilities. A material which is rigid but also soft, light and stable, elastic but pliable: the hearts of designers and architects sing! Whisperwool panels can be seamlessly joined together, you can bend and fold it, mount structures on it or sculpt it into 3D forms. In terms of colour, we have stayed true to nature. Currently, panels are available in three natural colours, although much more is possible in the future.

Whisperwool is sold as panels measuring 90cm x 90cm x 12mm. They are available at well-stocked construction suppliers.

The wool:

Whisperwool is made from Tyrolean wool: controlled quality from Tyrolean mountain sheep. Further quality assurances come from Tante Lotte’s close cooperation with the Tyrolean Sheep Breeding Association. In this way, it can improve the impact on the land and thus improve the quality of the soil and biodiversity. This also ensures that the prices for raw materials are passed on to the farmers. In Tyrol, at least a part of the sheep’s wool is collected. However, the majority of this raw material is thrown away unless it can be used in the textile industry. However, only a small percentage is used in this way as most wools are too coarse.

The technology:

Whisperwool is the result of more than 7 years’ research and development. Whisperwool is not felt: it uses a special technology where the wool fibres are first coated with a natural substance, then mixed with binding fibres. They are then fused with the wool fibres when subjected to heat and pressure.

No toxic additives are used in Whisperwool; even the moth-repellent which we use is recommended by Greenpeace.

Currently, we use PET as a binding fibre but are working towards using an organic fibre. However, the organic plastics which are currently available are not really biodegradable, which makes it harder to recycle the panels. We have therefore made Whisperwool in such a way that cutting does not produce any dust, no construction waste ends up in nature and any leftovers are collected and turned back into Whisperwool.

However, for as long as the panels cannot simply be buried in the garden as fertiliser, we still have work to do.

Use:

Whisperwool was mainly developed for suspended ceilings, but they are also used for wall coverings, ceiling sails, murals, partition walls and furniture.

Acoustic panels can be used in all kinds of different ways. Private rooms, offices, conference rooms, spa areas, quiet rooms, auditoriums, schools and kindergartens become more peaceful, thanks to Whisperwool®.

**Whisperwool fleur de lis**

They climb up the walls, rising up from the soft surface: stylised lilies which are used to make a pattern and please the eye. These lilies bring back memories for all of us. The lily has been used as a symbol for all kinds of things over the centuries: whether standing for peace, war, freedom, health, fame, honour or even the holy trinity, it has been used in many instances from ancient Egypt to modern sport associations and coats of arms. The lilies remind designer Horst Philipp of the spikes on the garden fence of his parents’ house in Innsbruck where he got stuck as a child and had to be helped out.

**Whisperwool facts**

• Innovative technology from Tyrol

• Environmentally friendly

• 100% recyclable (cradle to cradle)

• Made from sustainable raw materials

• Improves room acoustics (αW: up to 0.9)

• Made from Tyrolean sheep’s wool (Tyrolean wool)

• Improves room climate (humidity, insulation)

• Wool cleans the air and removes toxins from it (e.g. formaldehydes)

• Protected from moths, non-allergenic due to use of pure wool (no mites!)

• Dirt-resistant and self-cleaning

• Pliable and foldable

• Inflammable panels available upon request

• Available in three colours: anthracite, silver-grey, natural white

• Material: sheep’s wool and binding fibres

• L|B|H 90|90|1.2 cm

**Tante Lotte - Facts**

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Tante Lotte Design GmbH from Innsbruck develops, designs and produces products which make sense and add value for the customer. Our products are good for people, nature and the entire value chain - from the raw materials to recycling. Environmentally friendly materials and innovative production procedures play just as big a role as the need for high value and emotive design.

We have been doing responsible business since 2014.