

For over thirty years, lapalma, Italy, has been producing furnishings and furnishing components with cutting-edge design and technical solutions in which style, taste, quality materials and innovative manufacturing methods are expertly "mixed". In fact, the use of an LT8 LASERTUBE system and an E-TURN electric bender by the BLM Group stands out.

UBE is an opportunity for growth



For more than 30 years lapalma has been producing furnishings for the modern home and the contract sector following a path that originates from the masters of modern design and cleverly links all the components of the project in the right proportion to obtain a recognizable, universal, not showy product that is durable over the years. Rational aesthetics and the use of natural materials, such as wood from sustainable plantations, leather and wicker, combined with metal and glass provide a variety of elements and functions in a complete unit. A style that is useful to establish a contact with the environment and everyday things; to live each moment and situation, and enjoy the finer details that may seem meaningless, surrounded by objects that create a calm and reassuring atmosphere. All these principles, combined with taste and rigour, are the bases of a refined, modern and functional environment. lapalma products are the result of a constant and continuous research for materials and mechanisms that are meticulously designed and manufactured at the facilities in Cadoneghe, near Padua. Exactly! lapalma is a classic example of entrepreneurship in the North East of Italy, an area that is often viewed suspiciously by the traditional industrialists. This company from Padua, is, in fact, an example of how the will and ability of an entrepreneurial family - the brothers Dario and Romano Marcato - which, in this

case, are the only essential elements for global success since lapalma exports its own furnishing lines in more than fifty countries worldwide.

Quality is an essential component of lapalma's philosophy. This means control of the raw materials used and through the various processes, testing of the components during assembly and testing of the final product, up to packaging and shipment.

This, however, means cutting-edge manufacturing technologies and methods in which a well-established relationship with the BLM Group stands out.

Almost just for fun

lapalma was set up in the late 70s when Dario and Romano Marcato, both engaged in a company specialising in the production of small metal parts, stamped from strip, decided to start producing parts for furnishings to be sold in the store of the wife of one of the two brothers. "We wanted to take advantage - says Romano Marcato - of the fashion in the field of home furnishings of using products that were

quite different from each other in terms of style and materials within a single environment. It was almost like a game for us. We designed little tables, consoles and things like that." Starting from the home garage and using hobby equipment, Dario and Romano then began





to produce small series for the family store. The turning point came almost by accident. A representative actually entered the store by chance. After seeing the pieces produced by the Marcato brothers in their garage, he decided to take a couple of products to show his

customers. In only a few days they received such a flow of orders that no-one could ever have possibly imagined. From there on, the real mass production began, which today is exported to 55 countries.

Passing to the laser for production and prototypes

Within a short period, the growth in production required a department that was well able to accommodate the market changes, both in terms of capacity and flexibility and, last, but not least the quality level of the final product. The solution that the Marcato brothers had focused on was to automate the processing departments. A quality leap was made first in the tube bending department, where the former traditional systems were replaced by a BLM E-TURN electric tube bending machine.

"The transition from a more traditional production system to a more evolved system was sudden. In fact - explains Dario Marcato - during an open house we realised the endless opportunities in terms of flexibility and quality. Suddenly everything changed; and has done so for the better."

After the first BLM E-TURN an LT8 lasertube machine arrived by ADIGE (always part of the BLM group), and then a second E-TURN tube bending system was added. With the LASERTUBE system, all the bars are prepared with holes and end-trimming necessary to obtain the final result.

After these operations with the laser machine, the bars pass over to the second generation E-TURN which, after having read the material fibre and consequently placed them in the best directions, terminates the production cycle by giving the pieces their final shape. All this ensures extremely high precision and facilitates product changes.

"The lasertube - explains Romano Marcato - was an obvious choice. In fact, until then, we were equipped with traditional machines for tube cutting, which although efficient, could not minimally ensure the same production ease, operating flexibility and productivity of the LT8 LASERTUBE system. If we add the fact that in our job, we are often forced to perform tests and prototypes, which we had to outsource for certain processes, it's easy to understand the reasons for the choices we have made. I would quite happily make the same choices again, because BLM and ADIGE have changed our lives and it is evident, just like the lasertube technology, seen as an opportunity for growth, opens scenarios and job opportunities that were unthinkable before."

