



Sustainable practice is our core

Sustainability is a natural part of Form & Refine's DNA. In fact, the firm was founded on the ambition of making a difference. We do not need to constantly fill our homes and offices with new furniture or accessories; instead, we need fewer things in a quality that endures and only gets more beautiful with age.

It may sound too idealistic to be true, but when Helle Herman Mortensen, Jonas Herman Pedersen and Lasse Lund Lauridsen founded Form & Refine in 2018, their primary premise was to make a difference – every day. One of the core pillars of the company would be to assign equal importance to quality, materials and design in production. Furthermore, the production had to be locally based wherever it made sense, and where it was the best way to support local craftspeople, makers and workshops. Another key aspect of the company vision was a fully sustainable practice that aligned with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and considered the social, ethical and quality aspects of modern circular furniture production

‘It was important to us to create a serious brand that incarnates the Nordic design legacy that we are a part of. We are all passionate about materials and love wood, which is the most sustainable material that exists. Wood has a long lifetime and has a smaller environmental footprint than any other material. Wood also has a positive impact on our physical and mental well-being and can be recycled and reused. Our wood comes from certified forests in Europe, and our wood waste is 100% biodegradable. Furthermore, we are co-owners of Damsbo Forest on the Danish island of Funen, where we only harvest timber when the forest’s natural balance allows it. We use this wood for our Danish-made furniture, so that the entire chain – from the initial, tiny seeds to the finished product – takes place in Denmark.’

says Lasse Lund Lauridsen.



Form & Refine is a ‘slow living’ brand that aims to create products that are as natural as possible. Products that are made with care for materials, design and the quality that the product contains and passes on to the users.

‘Our brand represents a viable alternative to the throwaway culture. We are proud of producing small series that focus on quality over quantity, and we only launch new products when we have designed some, that in our opinion are essential. We do not chase trends but strive to create a responsible company with a collection of well-designed quality furniture and objects that last a lifetime and can be enjoyed now as well as by future generations,’ says Helle Herman Mortensen.

Form & Refine’s uncompromising approach to sustainability, craft traditions and quality are also manifested in the equal partnerships. The company engages in with locally based craft makers, workshops and cooperatives to ensure that its furniture and accessories are produced locally, where the craft traditions are strongest and the materials are close at hand. Thus, Form & Refine is a bold and responsible business because it dares to combine brand values, furniture production, economics, logistics and ideology into a coherent whole that reaches into the world and actively makes it a better place to work and live. And it seems that global consumers are ready to come along, as Form & Refine is now selling its furniture throughout most of Europe and in the United States and Japan. That is good news and proof that Form & Refine’s sustainable business philosophy and production approach are making a real difference.

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Form & Refine’s daily sustainability practices

We minimize our carbon imprint by using **local materials and partnering with local workshops**. All our materials have to be procured and processed within a radius of 100 km.

We produce all our furniture and wooden accessories in Europe. We only use timber from trees that are felled within a short distance of our workshops. That is why we do not use teak or mango wood from South America or Asia or oak from North America.

We transport all our materials by ship or lorry and **avoid air cargo**.

We promote **social equality** and support the ethical aspects of sustainability through concrete efforts to protect and respect indigenous peoples’ rights and to preserve traditional crafts.

Our alpaca wool comes from a cooperative of 400 local farmers in the Andes region in Bolivia. The family-owned workshop we mainly work with uses traditional craft methods to process the luxurious fibres. Textile production is the main source of income of the indigenous population.

The Shoemaker Chair™ comes from one of the oldest and last remaining family-owned and -operated woodturning firms in Denmark.

All our made-in-Denmark steel products are assembled and packaged by inmates in Horsens State Prison, Denmark.

All our ceramics are produced by a local pottery workshop in Portugal with a long history.

All our A Line products are produced by a family-owned joinery in the mountain town of Jajce in central Bosnia-Herzegovina.

We work with the socioeconomic workshop HKI (Hans Knudsen Institute) in Copenhagen. HKI supports people who, for various reasons, struggle to find their footing on the Danish labour market.



Natural materials have a much smaller carbon footprint than other materials. We only use the most durable and sustainable materials, such as wood, brass, stoneware, steel, alpaca, cork and vegetable tanned leather.

We do not use chemicals or toxins.

We mainly use recycled cardboard for our packaging, either ordinary or honeycomb cardboard.

We do not use aluminium.

Most of our wood comes from **FSC** (Forest Stewardship Council) or **PEFC** (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification) certified forests.

All our steel products are made using 100% green wind power. Leftover materials from the production go back into circulation as recycled steel.

All our cork comes from Portugal. Cork is a naturally eco-friendly material, fully biodegradable and easy to recycle without producing toxic waste.

Alpaca fibres are eco-friendly and preserve their natural character when they are processed. Our alpaca wool is not exposed to chemicals or toxins at any stage in the production process.

Our leather is made from cow skins in Italy and Portugal. Vegetable tanning is an organic method that relies on natural tannins in bark or other plant tissues to process animal skin.

Our stoneware is made of Portuguese clay, a natural material consisting of minerals and water. Mineral clay is found naturally in the soil and is an excellent material for creating beautiful, safe and sustainable items.

Our webbing is made of natural linen a high-quality natural fibre made from the flax plant.

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