



**Skin Collection**

Devices with Soul

# Skin doubles

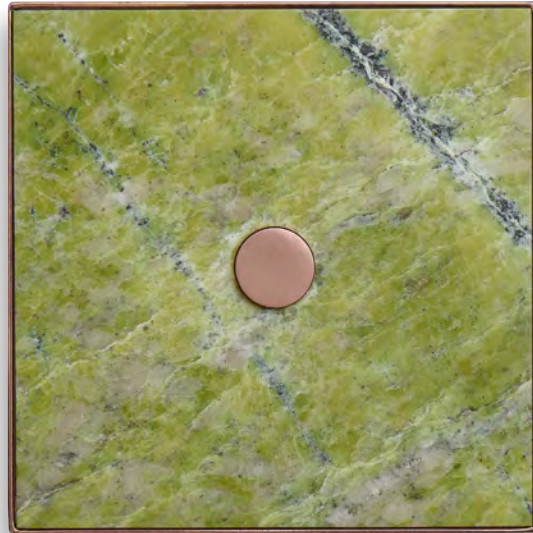
In 2021 the iconic electric control plates collection launched by **PLH** a decade ago, has grown and renewed itself through two new strong aesthetic and technological impacting suggestions: the **Skin collection** produced with **Antolini natural stones** and the **Skin DeMarea De Castelli collection**. PLH has also strengthened the collaborations with **SAI Industry** and **Haute Materiali**.

# Skin-Antolini

PLH's commercial and productive strategy since the beginning in 2006 has been linked to the idea of sustainable and circular economy. PLH's products are not ephemeral, they don't follow fashion, on the contrary they are made to last through time and are designed to be implementable, to be ergonomically perfected, technologically updated, to increase their functions and to be innovative aesthetically.

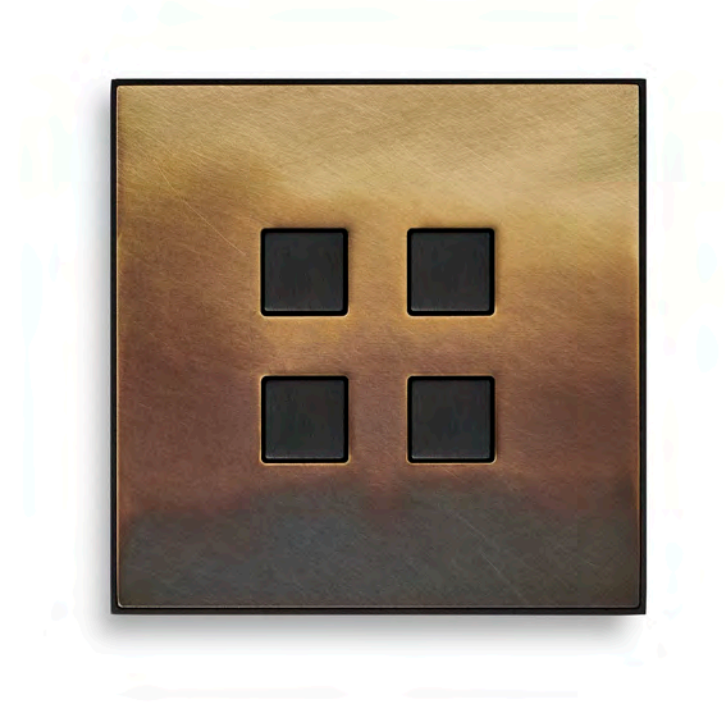
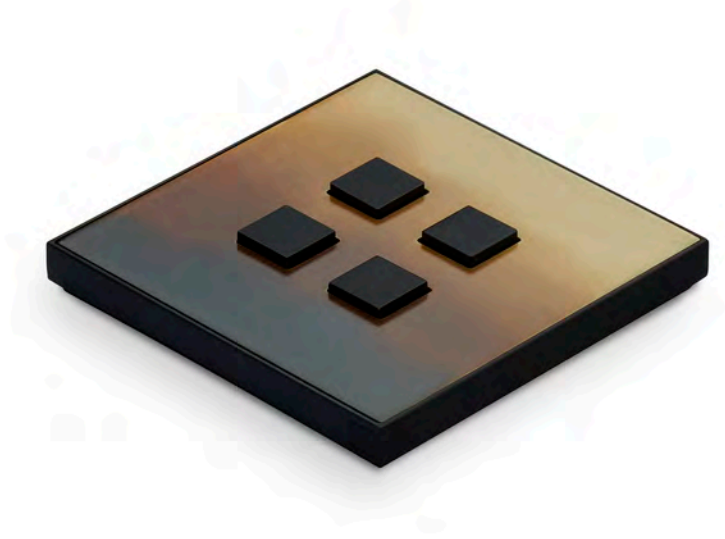
This year the enriching process has been in the name of durability, adding two novelties. The protagonist is the iconic **Skin collection**, from the Milanese company, already recommended by the ADI Index ten years ago. The trait that distinguishes this electric control plate, thought for exclusive and luxurious installations, is today well known but it's worth remembering. It's square, rectangular or round chassis is machined from solid from aluminium or brass with numeric control machinery and has a unique front depression of a few millimetres suitable for different decorative materials, studied and wrought in partnership with some of the most famous décor brands.

This solution makes **Skin** extremely versatile and customisable, open to different combinations and collaborations, it has in fact important partners such as SAI Industry (fabric-non fabric), De Castelli (concrete materials), Haute Materiali (wood), Kvadrat (fabric-non fabric). The news is that **from 2021 also the extraordinary company from Verona Antolini, actually Luigi Antolini & C**, specialized in marble, granites, onyx and high-quality natural stones commerce has become a partner of PLH. World leader in this sector, as Enrico Corelli, PLH's CEO says "we had already crossed paths in some construction sites and I had already learned to appreciate their work and their method, but we have got to know each other better only recently and we have a high mutual esteem. The reason is that values that guide the two companies are very similar: excellent quality research, flexibility, passion, dedication and creativity. Sharing this vision, it has been a short step towards collaborating: "More than a commercial collaboration it is an artistic one". Antolini in fact says: "We have decided together to select ten natural materials with PLH, that we considered the most suitable to stand out also in the electric control plate small format. Our choice fell on stones from the exclusive Antolini collection that distinguish themselves for their colours, finish and unique motifs." Natural exceptional stones, with a strong matter and graphic mark that Antolini supplies to PLH in finished 2mm thickness sheets. After that, as Corelli explains: "PLH then starts the manufacturing process with high technology machines such as numeric control waterjet cutter, or through high precision manual operations like the piercing for the passage of buttons or levers, or filleting to reduce the thickness, our artisan partners have extraordinary and unique craftsmanship. The result of this very delicate productive process – the piece could break in every moment – is a one-millimetre thickness tile, which is what you need to correctly insert it in the body of the plate". Last but not least: "As marble, all the natural stones have a homogenic and even texture, their aspect varies from block to block, from sheet to sheet and even inside the sheet itself. This is very important when you want to customize the **Skin collection with Antolini stones**: it is important to decide ahead of schedule with the architect and the client if they desire similar weaving on all plates or instead different ones for each space. Also, if they want the plates to be part of the home décor or to be a standout element. Depending on what the client opts for then the sheet is prepared and finished. Productive and aesthetic factors converge in the **Skin plates using Antolini stones** conferring preciousness and richness to the interior design in minimal homes as in flamboyant décor ones.



## Skin-De Castelli

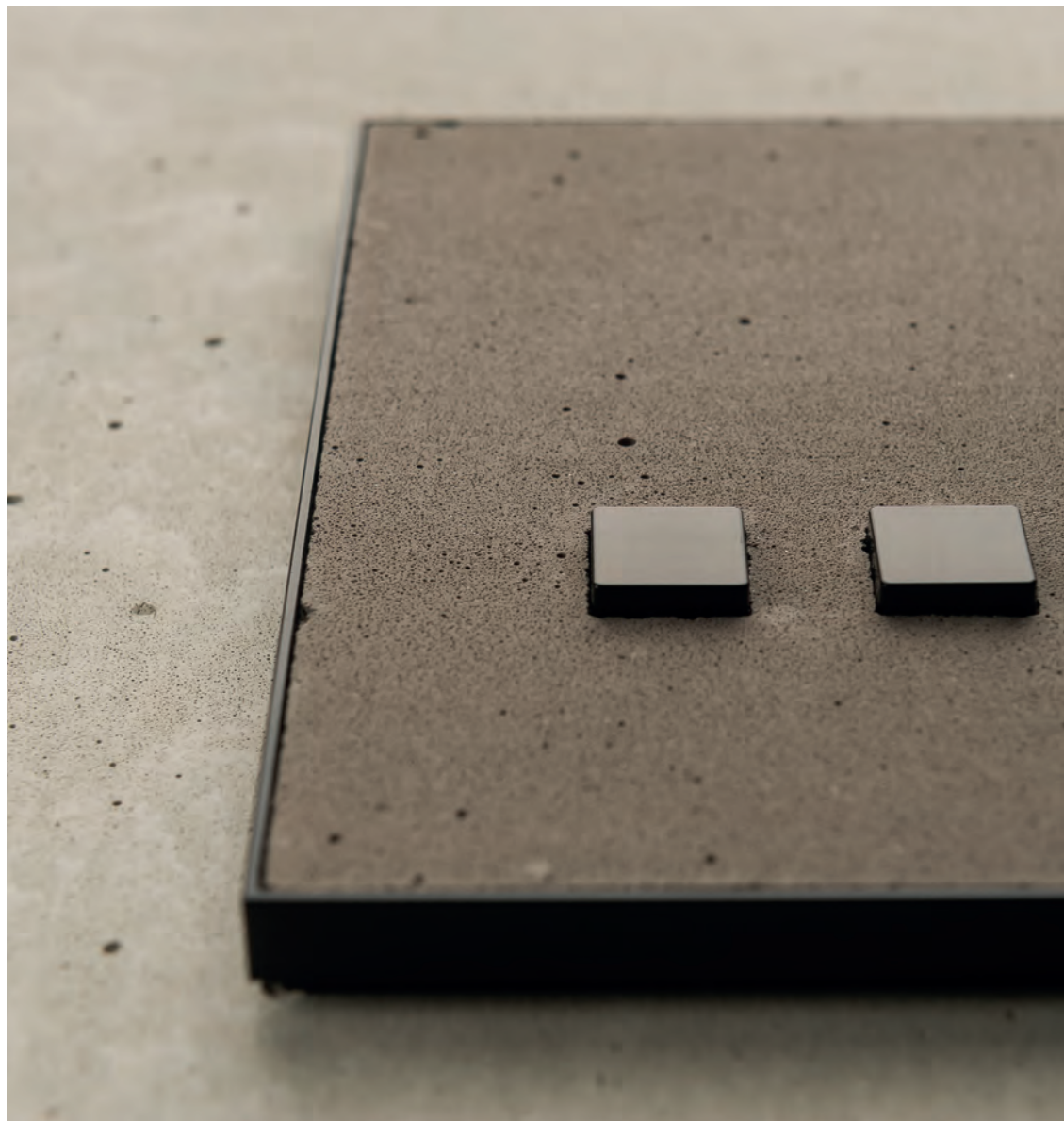
The other 2021 new entry is De Castelli. The world leader company from Treviso specialised in artistic manufacturing and treating metals is linked to PLH since a long time. “Affinities, sensitivity and a common vision have lay the foundations for a strong partnership, interfacing skills and creating occasions to project and experiment together” say the two owners Albino Celato and Enrico Corelli. This time te “topic” they have worked on was to bring the classic **DeMarea of DeCastelli** finish to the Skin plate. “The **DeMarea**”, as the R&D centre of De Castelli explains “is one of the most typical finishes of the De Castelli production, it enhances the metal potential and at the same time our technical and artisanal skills. Each piece becomes unique, a small artwork that recounts also the aesthetic value of the oxidation process. This is one of the most suitable finishes to represent our collaboration with PLH”. The **DeMarea** finish is characterized by a progressive stratification of oxidations that are manually juxtaposed by skilful artisans so to create a “watercolour” effect, communicating strong textural feelings and creating the suggestion of the passage of waves, exactly the tide phenomenon. “Designed by the young Designers Giorgia Zanellato and Daniele Borbottò, the collection is a homage to venice and its will to resist”, highlight the R&D of De Castelli managers. The small sheet that will be paired to the wrought shell of the **Skin** plate is delivered to PLH finished in all its details. “Our intervention”- says Corelli – “is focused on the perfection of the assembly work, on quality control and on harmonizing the plates in the various interior design projects, keeping in account that the “multi- oxidation” process is manual and that each piece presents small, but significative differences. Every **DeMarea** finished **Skin** piece is a stand-alone piece and has to be intended like this in an interior design context”.



# Skin-Cimento

“Since I started working” – says Enrico Corelli “ the construction yard has become my second home. Here I have fallen in love with concrete. I think it is a decorative material in itself, with its rough essential soul, it brings a classic touch and a strong contemporary expressiveness as Le Corbusier and Tadao Ando’s architectures show. Its tactility is unique as the brutalist graphic of its surface. When in PLH we came up with the desire to create the **Skin** plate, I immediately felt the desire to do one in cement. From this moment on I started to search for a supplier who could offer me a product capable of standing out in the few centimetres of the plate. Finally the choice fell on Cimento, a patented cement product realised by Cimento, a brand from SAI Industry, a young and dynamic group from Venezia.” “When we started to have the first contacts with PLH - says the marketing director of the venetian company - Cimento represented an absolute novelty in the coating market. This aroused the interest of PLH CEO Enrico Corelli and from here our partnership started and it immediately encountered architect’s and clients’ favour, as capable of offering a convincing answer to an increasingly demanding high-quality products market in terms of décor and therefore also the electric control plates for residential use.

Enrico Corelli observes in turn, “we immediately liked the suggested material because of its close resemblance to cement, it reproduces its material consistence, its elegant and always different texture and its pleasantness to touch”. Cimento explains “ it is a composite made of over 90% of mineral aggregates mixed to a cement binding agent. This is the result of a manual work where artisanal craftsmanship is mixed to the use of modern technologies. It is versatile and natural, and it allows to obtain the bare concrete effect in unexplored contexts”. Furthermore, the surface treatments that the plates undergo guarantee the maximum efficiency in term of maintenance and cleaning. Set in the metal chassis of the plate, the cement effect and its bare beauty is emphasized including the ever-present imperfections of such material. **Skin-Cimento** is an exceptional plate, customizable and with a contemporary mood it seals a partnership between the two leader companies, highly specialized in their market sector, that started in 2013 and keeps on evolving with great success.





# Skin-Haute Material

“Wood is a fantastic material”, Enrico Corelli, PLH CEO, explains, “and I have always dreamt of incorporating it in an electric command control plate. It is fantastic because it guards nature and its history in it, and it reveals in always different, stunning shapes and surfaces. Unfortunately, it has a problem: it moves, it breathes, it expands and shrinks. This is the most difficult material to put in the chassis box of the Skin collection! To make this dream come true has been a real challenge. After many attempts, PLH found the ideal partner in the Valtellina region, capable of sorting out the matter: Haute Materiali.” This partnership has been a synergy between two far apart worlds (one linked to technology, one to nature), result of an immediate sympathy, shared values and the mutual need to deepen the respective knowledge. Last but not least the attractiveness of the project. Francesco Saccaro, marketing director of Haute Materiali: “since the beginning we found in PLH a great partner, meticulous in choosing materials for their collections, so when they developed an interest in the world of wood, Haute material was eager to make available their vocation and know-how, developed in years of passion and research. The combination of wood and high technology devices has been a big challenge for us and the outcome wasn’t obvious”. It has been necessary to find a way to overcome all the problems linked to wood’s instability, this has been possible by developing special millwork manufacturing techniques to obtain primitive staves veined in the opposite sense capable of not braking and deforming. In particular, the **Skin** collection has a new entry new entry, Saccaro says:” In this case we examined with PLH the essence heritage in the Haute Material catalogue and we have chosen the Harborica essence, an exclusive wood coloured to the whole through a revolutionary impregnating process of the lymphatic system of the tree. For the **Skin** plate, Haute Material supplies the sliced wood in the established thickness and size ready to be applied by PLH to the chassis, while in the wood version of **MakeUp** the plate is obtained machined from solid.” These solutions make every piece of the **Skin-Haute Material** collection unique and sometimes the wood is even decorated through a tailor-made laser engraving technique on the wood surface. “One of the secrets of this collection” -Corelli concludes- “is that wood is by definition custom made because its texture varies from piece to piece and on top of this the attention and tailor made care the both the companies put in creating every single project and object”.





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