

Material & finish guide

Finishes for hospitality interiors

How the finishes in our library behave in hotels, restaurants and bars: where we use them, how they are maintained and how forgiving they are under heavy use.



How to read this guide. Wear ratings (1–5) are indicative guidance for this demonstration, where 5 is most forgiving in heavy hospitality use. They are not laboratory test results or certifications. Final selections are always made on physical samples and the manufacturer's specification sheets.

Atelier Vaart · Rotterdam workshop · Contact details are fictional in this concept.

Finish schedule (part 1)

Swatch	Finish	Typical use	Care and behaviour	Wear
	Oak, natural oiled Timber	Bar fronts, panelling, tables	Hard-wax oil. Clean with pH-neutral soap; re-oil worn areas locally.	● ● ● ● ○
	Smoked oak Timber	Back bars, panelling	Darker tone hides wear. Lacquered or oiled; avoid abrasive pads.	● ● ● ● ○
	Walnut veneer Timber	Reception, room joinery	Matt lacquer. Veneer limits sanding; protect edges with solid lippings.	● ● ● ○ ○
	Reeded oak Timber	Bar and reception fronts	Oiled. Vacuum reeds with a soft brush; kick plate below.	● ● ● ○ ○
	Terrazzo Stone	Bar tops, counters, floors	Sealed. Resists heat; avoid acidic and chlorine cleaners.	● ● ● ● ●
	Pale marble Stone	Bar tops, washstands	Etches with citrus and wine. Honed finish hides marks; reseal regularly.	● ● ○ ○ ○
	Travertine Stone	Reception tops, cladding	Filled and honed. Reseal yearly.	● ● ● ○ ○
	Brushed brass Metal	Rails, trims, shelves	Unlacquered patinates; lacquered stays bright. No abrasive polish on lacquer.	● ● ● ● ○

Finish schedule (part 2)

Swatch	Finish	Typical use	Care and behaviour	Wear
	Blackened steel Metal	Frames, shelving, edging	Waxed. Touch-up kit for scratches.	● ● ● ● ○
	Velvet, deep green Textile	Banquettes, lounge chairs	Contract grade only; removable covers advised.	● ● ● ○ ○
	Velvet, rust Textile	Banquettes, stools	Contract grade; check rub test on spec sheet.	● ● ● ○ ○
	Cognac leather Textile	Stools, armrests, booths	Aniline darkens with use; feed twice a year.	● ● ● ● ○
	Linen weave Textile	Headboards, wall panels	Upholstered panels with removable fronts.	● ● ○ ○ ○
	Lime plaster Surface	Walls, lobby features	Breathable; local repairs blend in.	● ● ● ○ ○
	Glazed tile, green Surface	Bar dies, back walls	Very durable; choose grout colour for mopping.	● ● ● ● ●

Choosing well

- Decide on worn samples, not only new ones – especially for marble, unlacquered brass and aniline leather.
- Specify contract-grade textiles and check the supplier's rub-test and fire documentation for your venue.
- Agree edge profiles, joints and grout colours on the mock-up.
- Order long-lead items (stone, special fabrics) right after shop drawing sign-off.