



2026 FORM Student Innovation Competition Entry Guide



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About the Competition & How to Enter



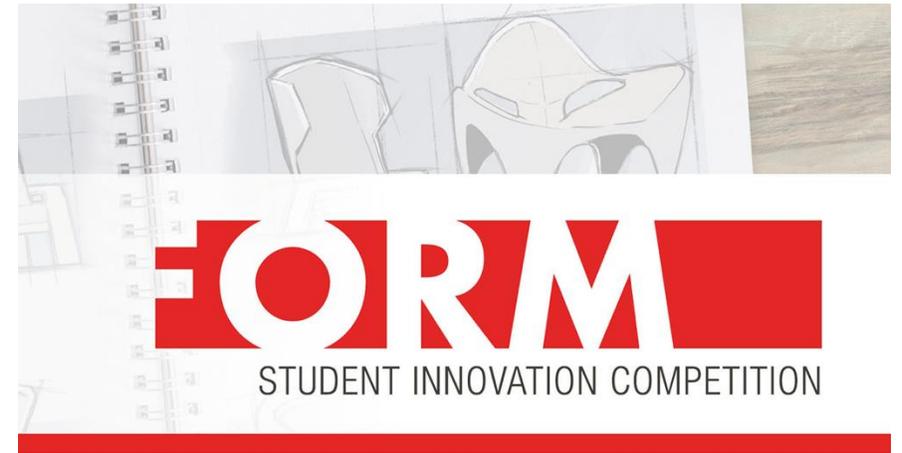
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About the FORM Student Innovation Competition



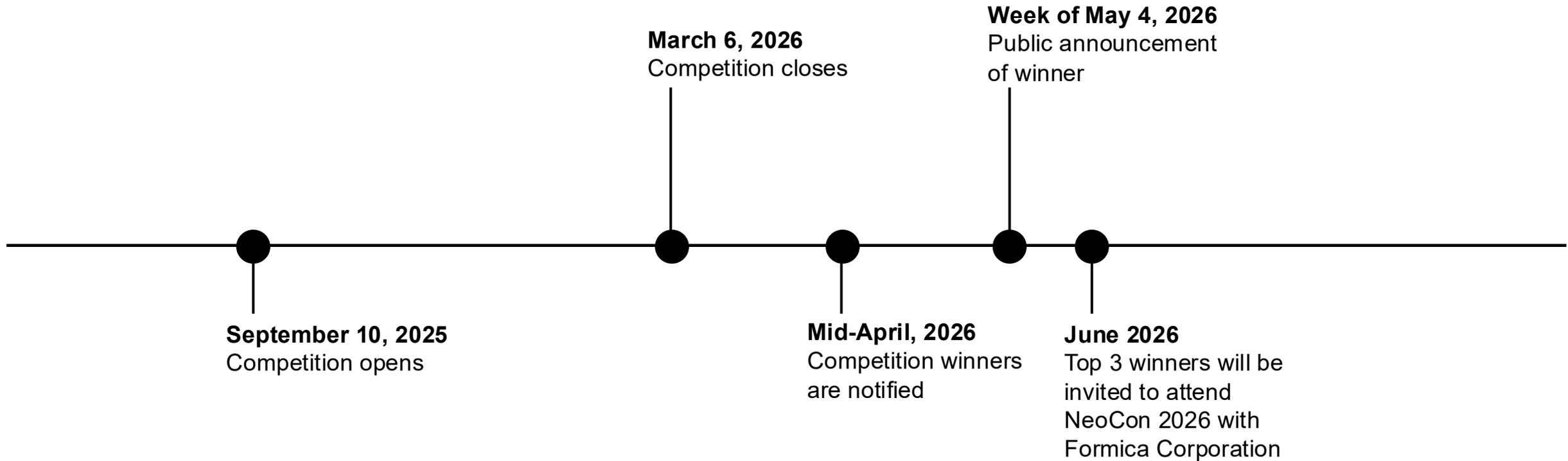
Now in its ninth year, the FORM Student Innovation Competition invites students studying architecture and design in the United States, Canada and Mexico to enter unique furniture designs aligned with this year's theme of "Mood-Boosting Design" for a chance to win a trip to join Formica Corporation at NeoCon 2026, where the grand-prizewinner's design will be fabricated on display, and cash prizes. Furniture designs can include chairs, desks, cabinets and more — the sky is the limit and students are encouraged to use their imagination!

A distinguished panel of industry leaders will judge submissions and award three winners. For the best chances at creating a winning entry, students should review this entry guide prior to preparing designs.

Contact formica@clynch.com with any questions and good luck to this year's entrants!



Competition Key Dates



Theme: Mood-Boosting Design

As expressive, meaningful and mood-boosting spaces are on the rise, Formica Corporation is inviting students to answer the call and create furniture pieces that inspire, emotionally uplift and spark joy.

This can come to life in a variety of ways, including but not limited to bold colors, unexpected color combinations and layered textures — all elements that can be achieved by experimenting with optical and physical textures across Formica Corporation's product range.

Pieces can be used for any residential and commercial setting and must incorporate at least three or more Formica® Brand or FENIX® products.



Eligibility

The 2026 FORM Student Innovation Competition is open to students who are at least 18 years of age and legal permanent residents of the United States, District of Columbia, Canada or Mexico, or who are international students enrolled as full-time students at universities in those locations.

The competition is not open to students who are currently employed as a professional designer in any capacity except as an intern.

You may enter as an individual or as a team of no more than two. If entering as a team, both members of the team must meet the competition eligibility requirements. Winning teams will be responsible for splitting prizes.

Please review complete eligibility requirements in the Competition Rules, available for download on www.formica.com/studentcompetition



Requirements for Entry

Design Packet requirements

Your Design Packet **must**:

- Be uploaded as a PDF no larger than 10MB in size
- Include a design statement in English up to 300 words
 - You may also include your design statement in your native language (Spanish, French)
 - You may use a translation service to translate your design statement and note that you've done so in your entry (optional)
 - Errors caused by translation are permissible and will not impact your ability to win
- Include a color rendering of your design with dimensions
 - Note that designed pieces must be no larger than 6 x 6 x 6 feet, or at least able to be broken down to fit inside a single 6 x 6 x 6-foot shipping crate.

Optionally, your Design Packet may include additional supporting visuals/renderings or CAD drawings but they must be included in your Design Packet PDF.

If not included in the initial Design Packet, Formica Corporation will request a workable file of finalists' designs to assist with fabricating the grand-prizewinner's design for display at NeoCon 2026.



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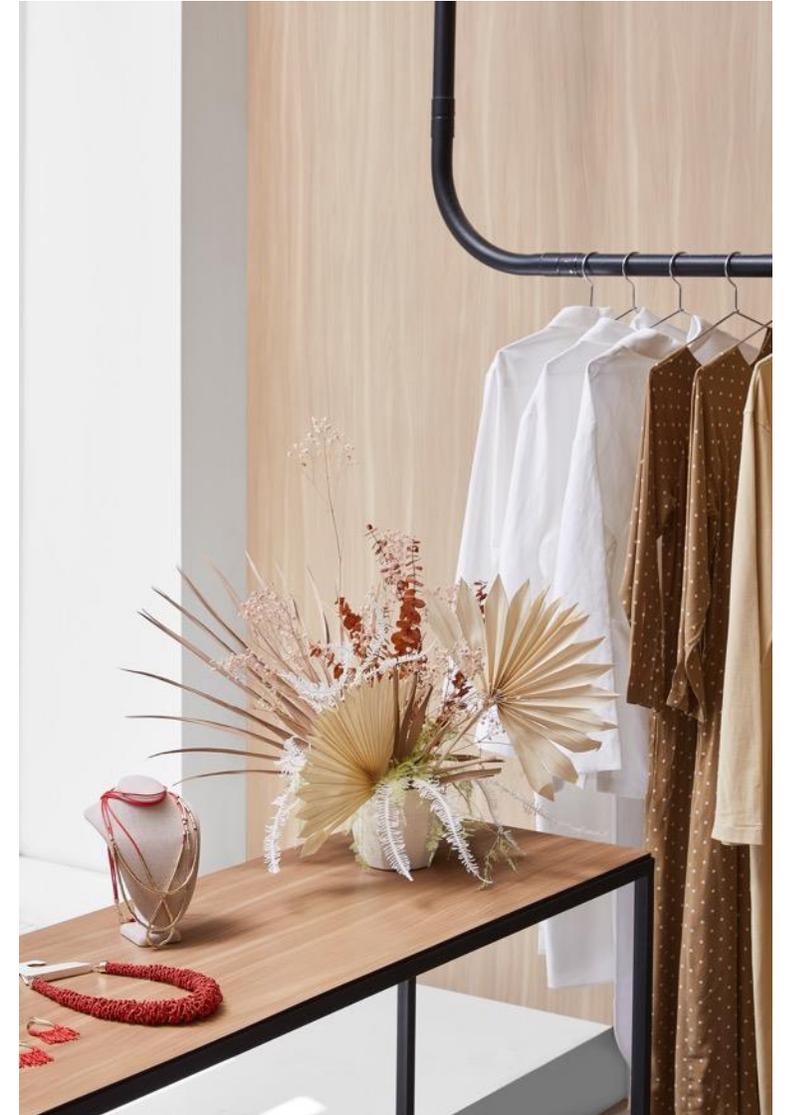
Requirements for Entry

Understand working with laminate

Laminate can be used for a large variety of surfacing projects and locations throughout the home and commercial spaces, including but not limited to:

- Countertops
- Backsplashes
- Cabinet fronts
- Dividing walls
- Cash wraps
- Desks
- Shelving
- Elevator panels
- Walls

Note that while some Formica® Laminate patterns are named after cloth, fabric or stone — the materials high-pressure laminate patterns resemble — Formica Corporation does not manufacture these materials. You may include real cloth or stone in your design, but they do not count toward the required minimum of three Formica® Brand or FENIX® Laminate materials.



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Requirements for Entry

Understand working with laminate, continued

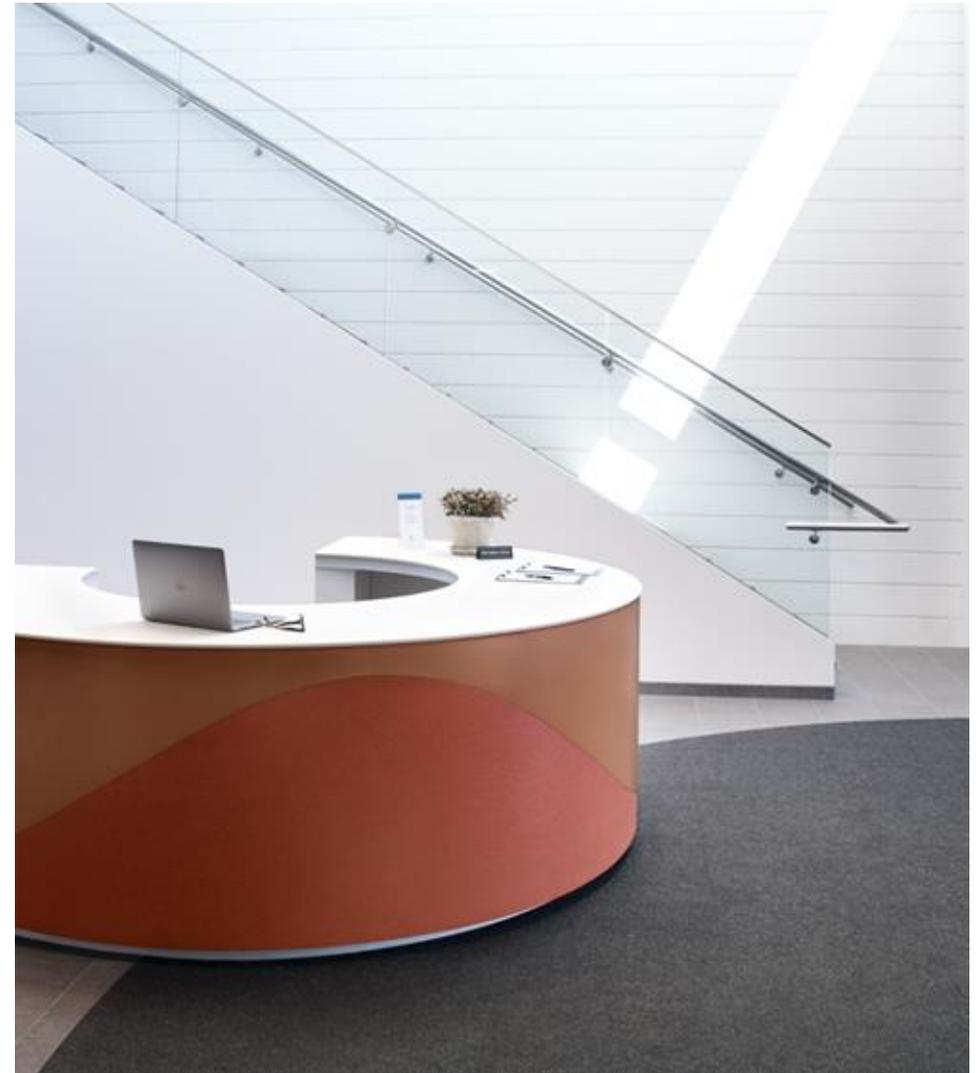
Formica® Laminate can be bent (within limits) through postforming at 325 degrees Fahrenheit. Forming rounded shapes can be more difficult and gradual curves are recommended. For instance, Formica® Laminate cannot:

- Be twisted like pasta
- Be formed into spheres or globes
- Be shaped into continuous loops or coils

Formica® Laminate must be glued to a substrate like MDF, plywood or another rigid material. Keep this in mind as you develop your design.

Formica® Laminate is not recommended for outdoor use.

Careful consideration must be given to product use around water because saturation may damage the seal and paper core of laminate.



Requirements for Entry

Understand working with laminate, continued

Designs that can't be fabricated aren't eligible to win. Explore the fabrication and postforming guides located at [Formica® Laminate \(www.formicadocs.info\)](http://www.formicadocs.info) and reach out to formica@clynch.com with any questions, allowing 3-5 business days for a response.



Considerations

Understand travel implications

While not required, it's recommended that all entrants from Canada and Mexico understand the legal travel requirements for entering the U.S. upon entering the competition.

Winners will be notified approximately two months before NeoCon 2026, which will take place in early June 2026 in Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A. Working to secure the necessary documents to travel, such as your passport and/or visa, in advance may help you successfully obtain them in time to attend NeoCon.

Personal video

Formica Corporation will contact finalists to request a two-minute video of them introducing themselves and their design to confirm correct pronunciation of names, schools and design titles.





Product Overview



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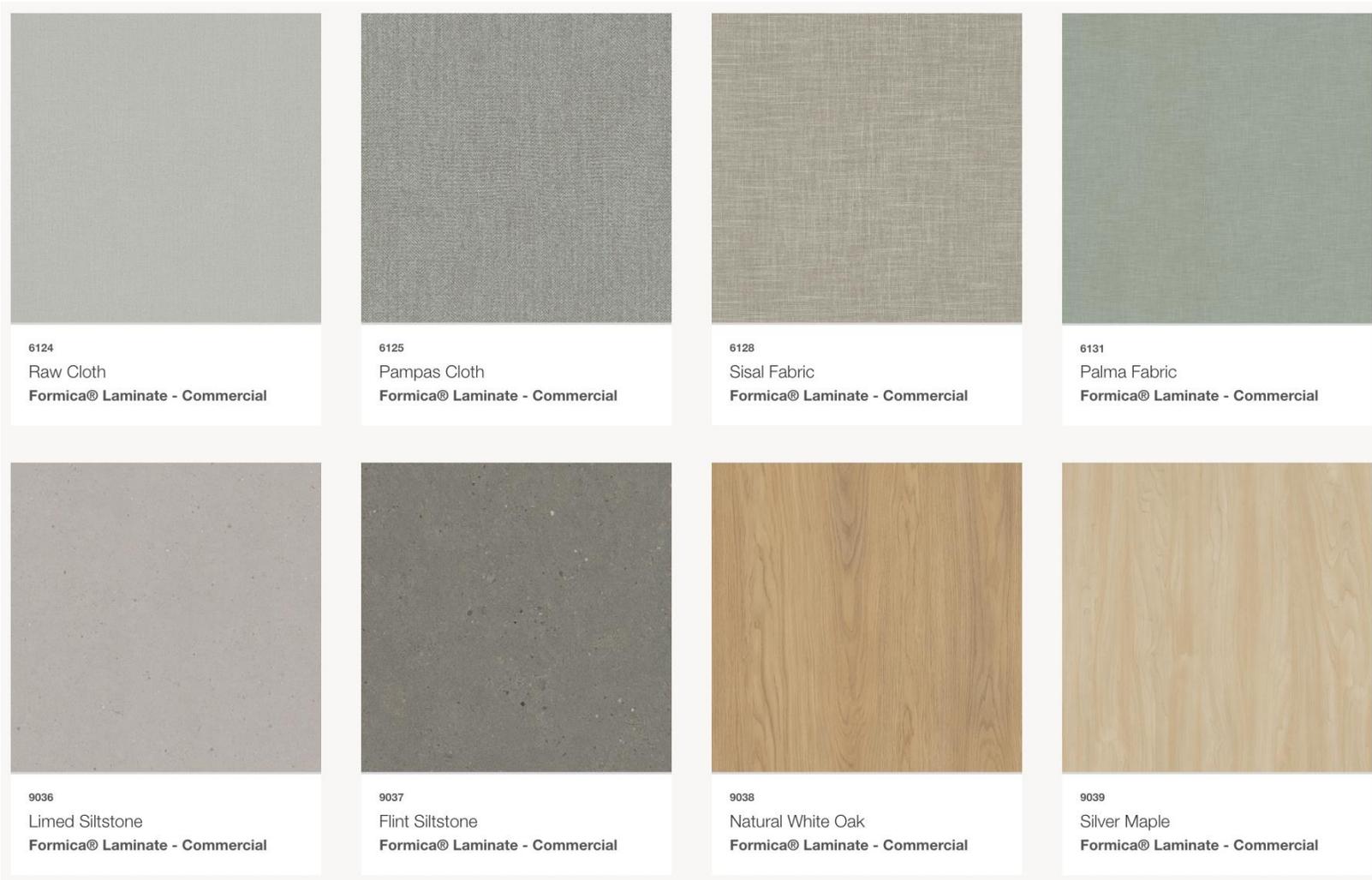
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Formica® Laminate

- A few examples of available colors are on the following slides. The full range of colors is available at Formica.com ([Product Page](#)).
- Formica Corporation is the inventor of laminate. Available in a variety of solid and graphic patterns and finishes.
- Traditional laminate has a paper core with layers of thin sheets.
- Postforming allows the product to be used for certain curved applications.
- Durable and wear-resistant.
- Nonporous and easy to clean.
- Horizontal and vertical application.
- Impact-resistant.



New Patterns & Woodgrains – Formica® Laminate



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New Patterns & Woodgrains – Formica® Laminate



9040
Fumed Maple
Formica® Laminate - Commercial



9041
Natural Refined Hickory
Formica® Laminate - Commercial

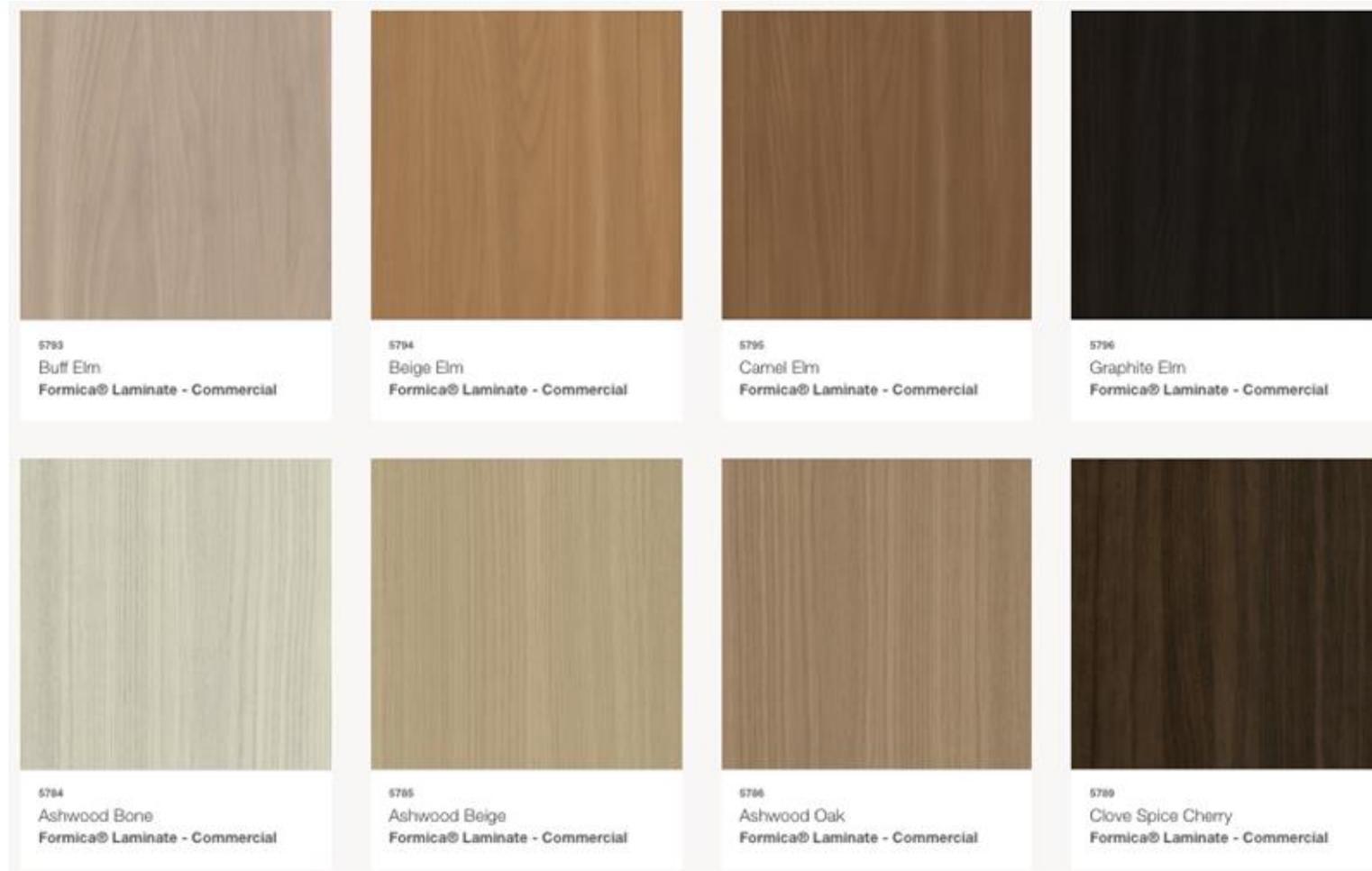


9042
Brun Refined Hickory
Formica® Laminate - Commercial

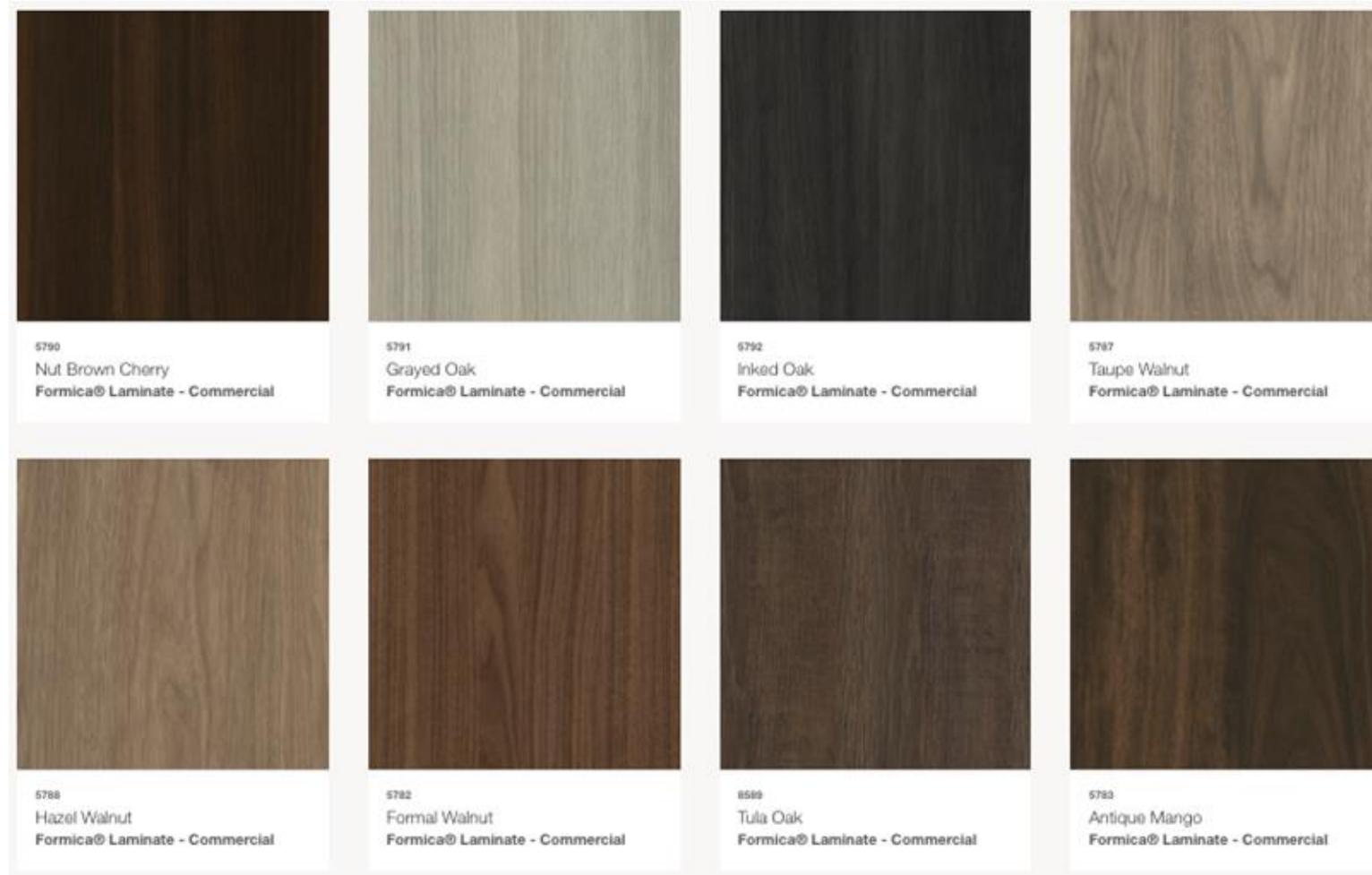


9043
Coco Tamarind
Formica® Laminate - Commercial

Woodgrain Line – Formica® Laminate



Woodgrain Line – Formica® Laminate



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Formica® Laminate Fabric Collection

- [Product Page](#)
- A practical and versatile choice for commercial design that seeks warmth and effortless elegance along with durable, easily cleaned surfaces.
- Includes four linen-inspired visuals including Chambray Fabric, Gray Fabric, Muslin Fabric and Sheer Fabric all for commercial use.
- Remember, some patterns are *inspired* by fabrics, but they are high-pressure laminate products.



Formica® Laminate Fabric Collection



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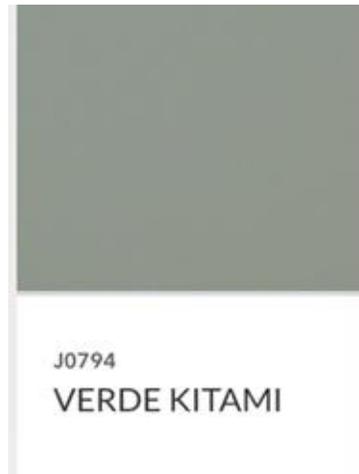
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FENIX® Innovative Materials for Interior Design

- [Product Page](#)
- Perfect for commercial and residential designs due to its durability
- Extremely opaque, soft touch and anti-fingerprint
- Low light reflectivity
- Thermal healing of superficial micro-scratches



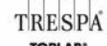
FENIX® Innovative Materials for Interior Design



*This represents a sampling
of available colors



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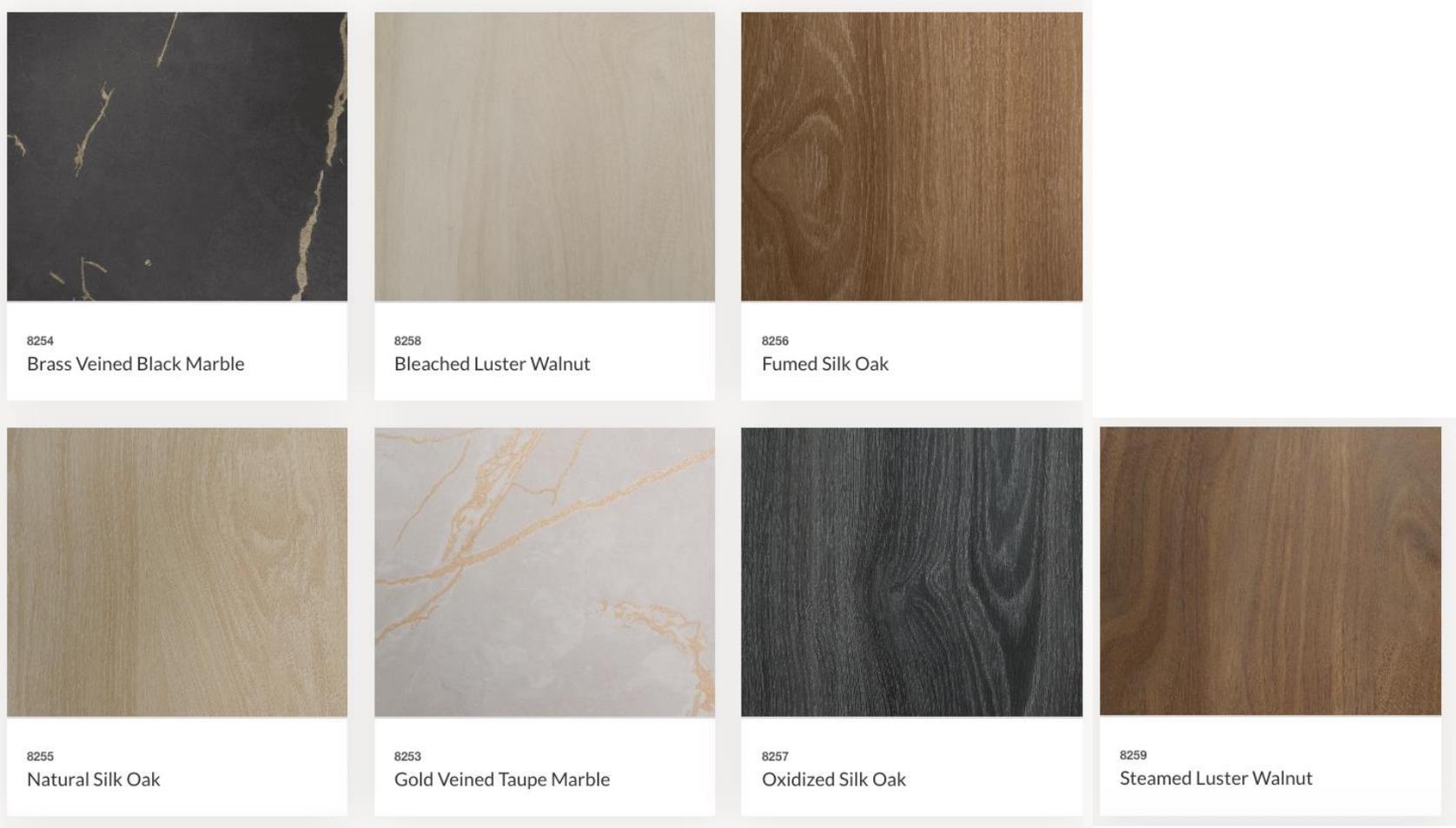


InDepth Surfacing™

- [Product Page](#)
- High-performance laminate surfaces draw the eye with luxe metallic elements, real wood veneer visuals and textural realism
- Horizontal and vertical application
- Postforming
- Durable and wear-resistant
- Impact-resistant

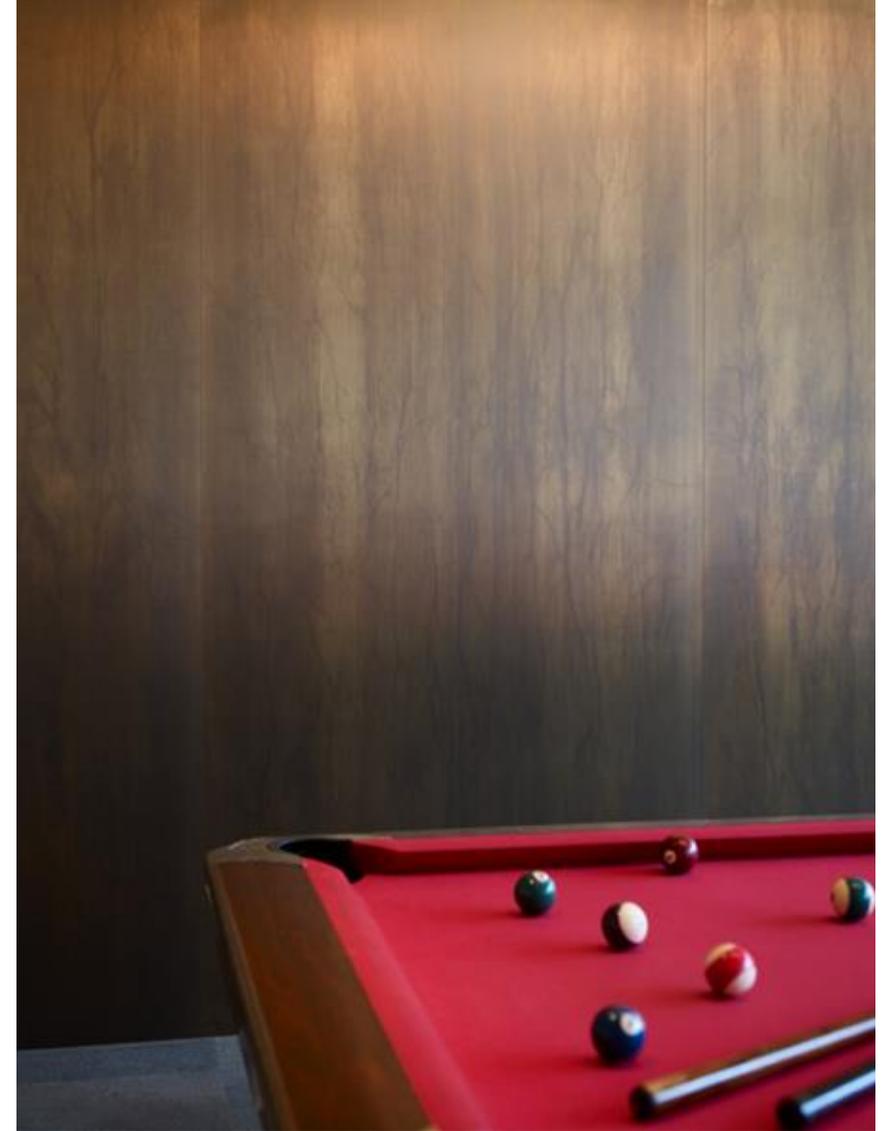


InDepth Surfacing™



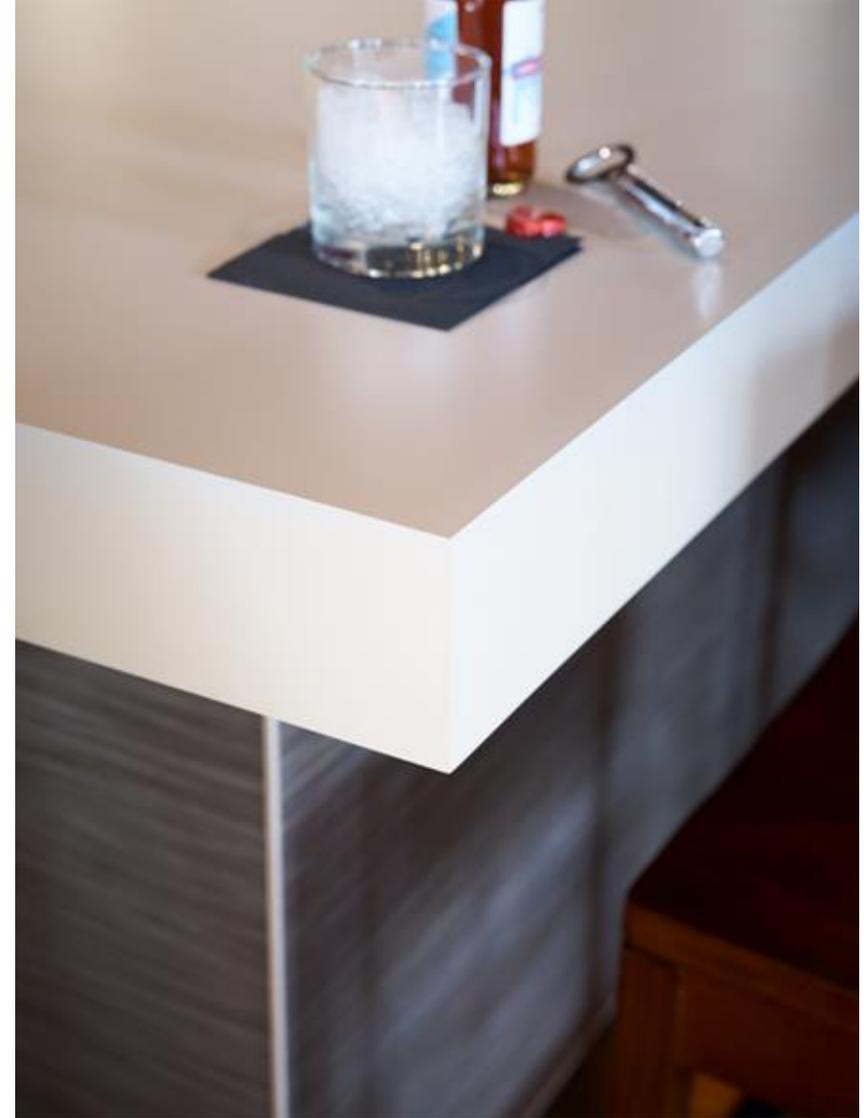
Homapal® Laminate

- [Product Page](#)
- Homapal® Laminate is a line of metal and metal-look laminates
- This line offers glamorous colors and sheens with sophisticated textures designed for interiors that require high design and durability
- Fire- and wear-resistant
- Light-use horizontal and vertical application



ColorCore®2 Laminate

- [Product Page](#)
- Features a matching-colored core that eliminates the brown edge typically seen with laminate
- By eliminating the brown edge, often associated with standard laminate, ColorCore®2 offers professionals a functional solution with high performance that doesn't sacrifice design
- Horizontal and vertical application
- Impact- and stain-resistant



Everform[®] Solid Surface

- [Product Page](#)
- Everform[®] Solid Surface is an acrylic surface made from natural mineral fiber and binding resins that features color all the way through to its core
- Seamless, nonporous, highly durable and repairable and water- and fire-resistant
- Horizontal and vertical application



180fx[®]

- Product Page
- 180fx[®] is an extension of traditional Formica laminate products that uses large-scale printing and scanning technologies for high-resolution patterns without a repeat
- The designs are revolutionary in making true-to-scale granite, stone and wood grain patterns that offer visual drama that is unmatched by any other laminates
- Impact- and wear-resistant
- Horizontal and vertical application



Formica® Markerboard

- [Product Page](#)
- Dry-erase surfaces that clean up instantly and are ideal for homes, offices and education settings
- Durable and easy to maintain
- High-gloss
- Non-magnetic
- Stain-resistant
- Horizontal and vertical application



Sustainability Commitment

- Formica Corporation continually strives to create innovative products that support sustainable design and contribute to a healthier environment.
- Formica Corporation will reduce its water footprint by 5% in the next five years.
- Formica Corporation pledges to publish its environmental impact data every year, along with targets and initiatives for the coming year.
- Formica® Products are LEED®, FSC® Certified Wood, and GREENGUARD certified.
- Formica Corporation earned the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Certified Biobased Product Label for Formica® Brand Laminate, certifying it to contain 72% biobased content and affirming Formica Corporation's ongoing commitment to advancing sustainable materials in modern surfacing (read more [here](#)).
- You can find more information on the Formica website [here](#).



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Previous Winning FORM Competition Designs



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2025 Winning Design: Playce



Playce, an indoor children's playhouse and desk combo, is designed to spark creativity in children while bringing fun to any space. Featuring a unique roof covered in colorful Formica® Laminate shingles, it adds a playful touch with vibrant hues that brighten any room.

2024 Winning Design: Notions



Inspired by midcentury modern design, Notions encapsulates the mantra of the design movement: form follows function. Focused on maximizing functionality in a small footprint, Notions creates Newstalgia by drawing inspiration from midcentury modern sewing boxes, bringing that practicality and streamlined design into a piece made for modern living.

2023 Winning Design: Voulta



This striking furniture piece showcases a combination of harmonious curves and vivid colors, embodying the essence of maximalist design. Crafted from high-quality laminate, Voulta offers a stylish solution for storing and enjoying vinyl records.



2022 Winning Design: Twins Table

The Twins Table was created for homeowners who need flexible, multipurpose furniture that allows them to seamlessly transition between functions. The Twins Table was made using Formica Laminate, which offers a broad range of looks.

2021 Winning Design: Toboom



A multifunctional piece of furniture designed to provide children with space for play, work, storage and relaxation. In the future, spaces for children will have to be more versatile due to strong growth demographic, while teleworking will become part of the daily life of parents. This need for multifunctionality will be sought to allow more independent learning.



2020 Winning Design: Origami

Modular art at its simplest. Birds, flowers, animals — all represented by the simple manipulation of a sheet of paper, the raw material of this work. Origami allows you to play with shapes and volumes, which causes this desk to challenge proportions. This ancestral art of Japan aims to be educational and evolving, in the very image of this creation.



2019 Winning Design: The Shrug Chair

Inspired by the bent plywood furniture of the midcentury, this design has a comfortable aesthetic that invites patrons to “shrug off” their cares in a chair designed for residential or commercial spaces. The curved nature of the chair allows for more relaxation as wide-spanned arms give the user more room to rest their upper body.

2018 Winning Design: Deflexion



Deflexion, the winner of the very first FORM Student Innovation Competition, was a unique chair meant to give the illusion of movement as it is observed from every angle and use. This design was inspired by origami forms.