

PRESS-RELEASE

## **Holzindustrie Schweighofer provides materials for Outpost Basel**

*Austrian-romanian wood entrepreneur on the 10<sup>th</sup> Design Miami/ Basel*

(Basel / Vienna , June 15, 2015 ) The Austrian wood processor Schweighofer takes part in this year's Design Miami/ Basel in Switzerland. Based on the plans of the US architectural firm Olson Kundig Architects the lounge of the 10<sup>th</sup> design fair was realized in the form of a cube. The Outpost Basel combines diverse geographical, material and cultural elements from America, Japan, Austria and Romania and manages to perform the highest level of design of everyday materials.

Gerald Schweighofer is pleased about the international cooperation for the Design Miami/ Basel. The wood entrepreneur and the architect got to know each other during a tender of a hotel project in Austria arranged by the Schweighofer Group. With Tom Kundig one of the most renowned architects was won to build an environmentally-sustainable luxury resorts in the world cultural heritage region Dachstein. Schweighofer about Outpost Basel: "After more than 40 years in the wood processing industry I'm still fascinated about the diversity that wood offers. The extraordinary design of Tom Kundig and the outstanding presentations of wood in new and completely unexpected forms transform the Outpost Basel into a modern place to retreat." For Gerald Schweighofer wood is the material that constantly urges and drives imagination: "The construction of the Outpost Basel with all its elements consisting of plates and wooden bricks demonstrates very clearly how innovative and versatile this natural product can be."

### **Japanese Woodworking meets Austrian Innovation**

The wooden bricks that form the cube structure of Outpost Basel were finished using the ancient Japanese Shou Sugi Ban technique, a woodburning method traditionally used to protect from rot and insects. The labor-intensive process involved charring, cooling, cleaning and finishing the wood with natural oils, which ultimately gives it a rich black hue. For Outpost Basel, Kundig chose to use Shou Sugi Ban for its aesthetic effect and worked closely with Schweighofer, who applied the technique on-site at one of their wood panels specialist factories in Romania.

### **Black Cube as a creative retreat**

The American architect Tom Kundig is responsible for the design of this year's Collector's Lounge at Design Miami/ Basel. From a distance, the object called Outpost Basel, looks like a simple dark cube. Two distinct adjoining volumes, one semi-open space and one a taller solid box made of wood bricks, together form Outpost Basel. As a tribute to the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Design Miami/ Basel the exterior of Outpost Basel is covered with a repeated X- shaped pattern. But when visitors walk closer, the construction of wood with a height of 6.4 meters reveals its true purpose: an X-shaped iron door leads to stunning lounge and restaurant area.

Tom Kundig said: "It's a great honor to make this space for Design Miami/, and to work in Basel, Switzerland. We each carry many influences with us—both my parents are Swiss, although I am American. With Outpost, I wanted to explore this idea through bringing different elements together in Basel. I like to mix old techniques and robust materials with innovative methods of making, so there will be crafted ironwork from Seattle, and amazing wood from Austrian firm Schweighofer."

### **About Holzindustrie Schweighofer**

For more than four centuries, the Schweighofer family has been closely associated with the wood processing industry. Schweighofer Group has meanwhile more than 3,000 employees. The result of the development of the past 12 years - meanwhile 5 Schweighofer modern technology woodworking

factories were established in Romania. Holzindustrie Schweighofer is the market leader in wood industry – with a wide range of high quality products, exported to more than 70 countries all over the world.

### **About Olson Kundig**

Olson Kundig is a Seattle-based design practice founded on the ideas that buildings can serve as a bridge between nature, culture and people, and that inspiring surroundings have a positive effect on people's lives. The firm specializes in new and renovated residential projects, particularly for art collectors; mixed-use buildings; academic, cultural and civic projects; museums and exhibit design; places of worship; urban design; and interior design for clients around the globe. For additional information visit [www.olsonkundig.com](http://www.olsonkundig.com)

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