

# The fascinating beauty of lacquer

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01

## A MILLENNIAL HISTORY

Lacquer first appeared in China and then in Japan more than 3000 years ago before moving on to the rest of Southeastern Asia. It began as a simple waterproof protective coating for everyday utensils, as lacquer also acts as a glue.

Craftsmen soon managed to mix pigments to obtain a range of colours going from black to red, including yellow, blue, white and brown. Lacquer went from having a purely functional use to becoming something decorative. From then on it was used to protect and embellish objects.

The Japanese continued to develop the techniques over the centuries, transforming the know-how into an art.

Lacquer spread through Europe in the seventeenth century via trading posts that offered luxury objects from the Far East, particularly the well-known Chinese Coromandel lacquer screens.

The European master craftsmen in turn, adopted the technique, which lived its finest hour in the 18th century and then again in the 20th century, principally during the Art Deco period. Designers like Jean Dunand, Gaston Suisse, Eileen Grey... connoisseurs, collectors and art lovers appreciated its refinement, subtle beauty and discreet luxury.



## Subtle Precious Refined

These qualities do not escape Christian Liaigre who integrates lacquer into numerous projects (Greece, Japan, India) as well as producing furniture with a lacquer finish. As one of the elements of Liaigre's aesthetic vocabulary, lacquer is omnipresent in the Liaigre Maison's furniture and accessories collection. The subtle, precious, and refined material elegantly decorates furniture and objects. Similarly, the Liaigre design studio uses lacquer in the design and decoration of residences and yachts.





02  
**A DELICATE  
PROCESS**



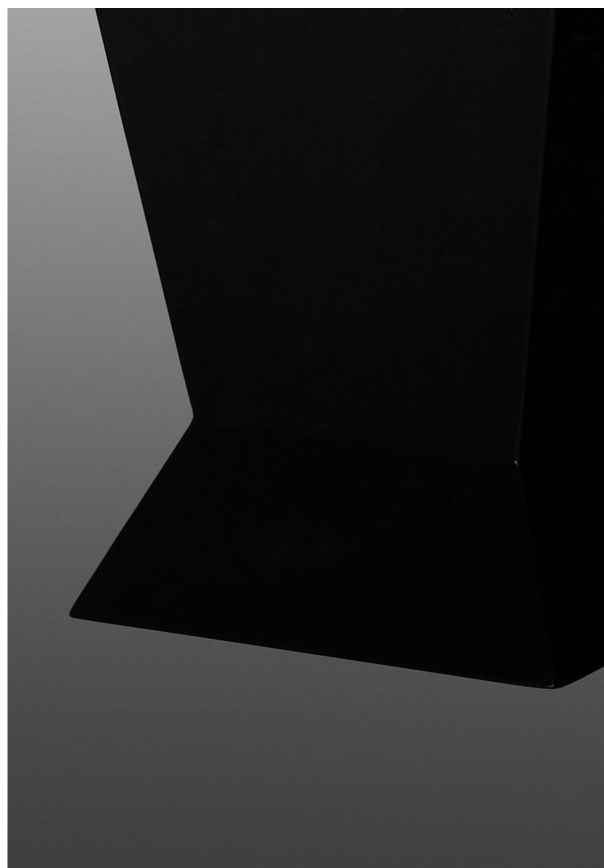
Originally, lacquer is a natural material that comes from the sap of a tree known as “lacquer tree” which is native of China and Japan. If the raw materials used to produce lacquer today are no longer from the plant world, the technique remains unchanged and requires a know-how that takes years to master.

The technique involves superimposing thin layers of varnish, which are dusted with pigment until a perfectly homogeneous smooth surface of subtle shades is obtained by successive glazing. This meticulous process needs time as each layer has to be perfectly dry.

The know-how requires patience and time which are so precious today and synonymous with luxury. The relationship with slow, meticulous techniques, as well as the delicate beauty of the objects produced, explain why lacquer has always been so popular and has fascinated people throughout the ages.

**Know-how synonymous with luxury**

### 03 **A CREATIVE CHALLENGE**



Lacquer, like bronze, has become one of Liaigre's favourite materials and the design studio continues to include it in its projects and collections, calling on French craftsmen and designers who master the know-how.

Over the last 25 years, the artist and Master of Arts Pierre Bonnefille has been creating special shades of lacquer for Liaigre (Pauillac, Margaux, Encre, Purple, Chili, Blanc, Noir). The Hill table however is produced by the designer Eric Schmitt.

Within the Liaigre universe, the Pauillac cupboard, the Charbon and Corsaire bedside tables, the Montfaucon side table, the Nagoya desk, the Marais console and the Zanzibar bed all contribute to giving lacquer an image that is both timeless and contemporary. The Hugo trays and new Etrier pots are accessories produced following traditional techniques.

The palette of shiny, satin and mat lacquers of light and dark tones enriches Liaigre's chromatic range to decorate furniture and objects with a touch of sophistication.



**One of Liaigre's  
favorite materials**

FROM

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