



Making stone lighter and stronger with Pierre de Lin®

“Le Monde de la Pierre” (The World of Stone) is a specialist in the custom cutting and marketing of all types of materials, including natural stone. Created in 2005 by Laurent Beaurin, the company is always looking for new creative projects. It recently led an innovative collaborative project that won one of regional innovation agency Seinari’s 2013 Innovation Awards.

The desire to meet its customers’ expectations led “Le Monde de la Pierre” to diversify, with the support of the FiMaLin association, the Dehondt group and Solutions Océanes. These organizations worked together to create lightweight stone / natural-fibre composite panels to lower the weight of stone panels and reinforce them using natural reinforcement materials – in this case, Lin Technique Composites®, or technical flax for composites.

Reinforcing and lowering weight

The innovation presents two different applications:

- A Pierre de Lin® panel (stone panel and Lin Technique Composites®) with higher impact resistance and a broader range of design possibilities;
- A Pierre de Lin® sandwich panel with cork core to confer heat and sound insulation properties in addition to the above advantages.

These applications make it possible to make slate panels thinner, reducing the weight by 70%; i.e. for a standard three-cm-thick panel,

from 90 kg/m² to 28 kg/m². Reducing the weight of stone panels opens up more potential applications, making it possible not only to fulfil the expectations of customers seeking unusual items, but also to apply these materials where weight would have prohibited it.

Practical applications

The innovation has already led to the marketing of a number of products:

- A shower tray made of slate and technical flax,
- A sandwich partition made of slate, flax fibre and cork,
- Thin wall panels that can be attached to lightweight partitions,
- An elevator cab consisting of slate/ cork/flax panels for lower weight and better vibration resistance and impact strength,
- A reinforced paved area for heavy loading zones.

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