Axolotl

METAL·GLASS·CONCRETE

SPECIFICATION DATA SHEET - TIMBERLINK
For the information of Specifiers and Trades

Product Description
Axolotl TimberLINK refers to the application of Axolotl metal or concrete coatings onto timber surfaces in a decorative design. Almost any design and coating can be applied to the timber face, from fine lace to bold geometric patterns. Axolotl can bond onto many different species of timber and veneer - please refer to the information below or contact Axolotl for suitablity.
Typical applications of Axolotl timberLINK have included internal feature walls, furniture, signage, balustrades, doors and kitchen cabinetry.

Timber is a natural product and may split or move if exposed to unsuitable humidty or weather. Axolotl coatings are directly bonded to this substrate, any movement in the timber will directly effect the coating and could lead to cracking or chipping.
TimberLINK combines two natural materials, any changes or movement is considered complimentary to the product and should not be considered a defect.

Sizes
Sizes are dependant on the material selected and their availabilty. Panel sizes will be directly linked to the availabilty of timber and timber veneer dimensions. In some cases Axolotl can work on panels up to 1500mm w x 3000mm h. Please contact us with details of your project to discuss sizing details.

Veneer
Veneer is available in a range of timbers, and cuts including crown, quarter true and false. When considering veneer matching options include; book matched, slip matched, mistmatched etc. Further details of these can be found in the Axolotl Timber flyer.
Substrate selection is also fairly open although it is highly recommended that moisture resistant boards be used in high humidity areas or areas subjected to occasional wetting. eg. Bars, kitchens, etc. The back or reverse side of all panels should be sealed or laminated to equalise surface tension. Panels not sealed in this manner may bow or cup. Veneered products are not suitable for high wear and wet horizontal surfaces such as kitchen counter tops, unless the veneer is completely encased within a suitable resin system.

Veneer may vary in appearance between different logs or colour batches, with natural veneers having significantly greater variability than the very consistent TrueGrain reconstructed veneers. To achieve best possible consistency across a project, all veneer should be ordered at one time and in the case of large projects, it is best if several months' notice is given. Soft species such as western Red Cedar, Australian Cedar and Rimu may not be suitable for horizontal applications or where they will be subject to impacts or knocks.

Aclimatisation of solid timber
The moisture content of timber is the percentage weight of water present in the timber compared to the weight of timber with all water removed. Moisture content varies with changes in the humidity and temperature in the surrounding air. To minimise the movement of installed timber (swelling on moisture uptake, shrinkage on moisture loss) due to changes in moisture content, it is important to lay and fix the timber close to the average moisture content of timber in the environment in which it is to be laid. In coastal areas - where higher humidity can be expected - moisture content ranges from 9% to 14%. Timber is usually supplied with an average moisture content of between 10% and 12.5%; most boards can be expected to be within a few percentage points of the average.

Cupping
Cupping is a "ripple like" effect. It is the result of the top of the boards being drier than the bottom. When timber loses moisture it shrinks and when it picks up moisture it expands. Possible causes are: dampness under the timber causing the bottom of the boards to pick up moisture faster than it can be expelled, air conditioners or heaters drying out the timber from the top, or sunlight through a window, which will also dry out the top of boards. The wider the board, the more exaggerated cupping can appear. To minimise the visual effect of cupping, it is a good idea to run timber in the direction of the main light sources.

Expansion / Movement
As solid timber is a hygroscopic product (i.e., it has a variable moisture content), it will move with changes of moisture to its local atmosphere. In spells of low humidity, your boards will expel moisture and shrink, which may cause gaps to appear; however in periods of high humidity, the timber will expand and gaps may close. The wider the board, the more likely it is to show cupping and movement. If your site is particularly dry (usually due to air conditioning) or damp, it would be advisable to opt for a narrower board. This won't stop movement or cupping, but the effect may be minimised. Axolotl recommend consultation with the timber supplier or an expert to ensure tolerances are appropriate.

Finishes
As timber will continue to move throughout its life due to changes in atmospheric conditions, we recommend to coat panels individually to allow the boards to move independently of one another. Axolotl coatings have a level of flexibilty that will move with the timber.

Coating prejointed boards bonds the edge of the boards together, which may result in irregular gaps or cracking if the timber expands or contracts.

Timber Species
Certain timber species are more suitable for particular environments or applications. Axolotl recommends discussing the project with the builder or architect to assist with the specification.
Engineered species are recommended for internal applications only, they can have benefits of lower costs, and can be a more stable product.

Axolotl metal and concrete finishes cannot be applied to Cedar or Teak. Timber species with strong tannins may effect the visual appearance of an Axolotl finish including but not limited to; leaching of colour, delamination.

Supply of Timber Substrate
If the substrate is supplied by the client, the timber species should be confirmed with Axolotl for suitability. For best results a sample piece can be coated prior to proceeding with the order.

All timber must be supplied raw, fine grains are preferred for TimberLINK applications as the grain pattern will read through the coating if it is strong or exposed.
If panels are supplied with unsuitable sealers, Axolotl can remove the finish for an additional cost in most cases.

Axolotl is able to supply veneer and timber panels as flat boards. Veneered panels must have specification of the substrate type, finish to front and back faces, and edge treatment. Supply of the timber substrate may increase the provided lead times.

Installation
Axolotl does not install TimberLINK products. Timber panels should be installed as per builder or installers recommendations. It is preffered for no mechanical fixing to pierce through the surface coatings. split battens or shiplap style panels may be used for concealed fixing.

Maintenance
Clean Axolotl TimberLINK surfaces with a soft damp cloth, and mild detergents only. Do not saturate with water. Never use any solvents, thinners, caustics or powder cleansers. Do not use abrasives as this will potentially scratch, or remove the ageing.

Aging
Patina's are added to the copper, bronze and brass metals either through the application of chemicals or heat.
Each individual panel will react slightly differently, creating an intended inconsistency found in natural aged metals.

Lead Times
Please confirm lead times prior to delivery / commencement of work. The minimum time required for any work carried out in our factory is generally 15-20 working days, however this may increase for large quantities, or if Axolotl is supplying the substrate.

Visual Inspection
No defects should be visible from a distance of three metres or over. All work must be inspected prior to being installed and Axolotl to be advised immediately of any defects, prior to final installation being performed.

Patterns
All patterns may vary slightly in appearance from approved artwork due to the nature of our manufacturing. Variations can include, but not be limited to, layup of the pattern, polish level achieved, and location of the pattern form panel to panel. Patterns and drawings provided by Axolotl remain the property of Axolotl Group Pty Ltd, and are subject to copy right. Use of these drawings for any other purpose is strictly limited to requests that have been approved in writing by the Axolotl Group Pty Ltd.

Website
Due to the evolving nature of all our products we recommend that up to date information be sourced from the downloadable data sheets and brouchures from our website (www.axolotl.com.au) and we accept no responsibility if outdated technical information has been used.

NOTE FOR SPECIFIERS -

PLEASE ENSURE SPECIFICATION SHEET IS COPIED & ATTACHED TO TENDER DRAWINGS FOR THE REFERENCE OF ALL RELEVANT TRADES.

For further information, technical assistance or costing please contact:

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