**Casalgrande Padana\_Grand Prix 2016-2018**

**01**\_**Casalgrande Padana**

*“From the very first steps in our long manufacturing history, we have been sure to put sustainability and health and safety in the workplace first, interacting with local communities and creating special outreach schemes in the common interest. Through all of this, we have tried to strike the right balance between economic development, innovation, environmental protection and social accountability. We believe that authentic Italian production is not just about beauty or luxury – it’s also about ethics, commitment and accountability. It is these values that have enabled us to turn a simple product into an experience worth sharing.”*

**Franco Manfredini** – President, Casalgrande Padana

Casalgrande Padana has been producing cutting-edge ceramic materials for nearly 60 years. Our innovative, environmentally friendly solutions for cladding, flooring and facades are capable of meeting any creative or technological requirements in the world of architecture and design. A manufacturer of impeccable quality, Casalgrande Padana’s industrial policy is firmly orientated towards innovation and respect for the environment as well as intensive research and development, striving for the aim of continuous product improvement in terms of aesthetics and function.

The company’s ever-increasing production and sales volumes are the perfect illustration of its ability to interpret new market developments and trends, something also demonstrated by our company data: the group has a workforce of over 1,000 people operating out of six hi-tech facilities situated in the heart of the most important ceramic district in the world, for a total of 700,000 square metres.

Respect for natural resources, environmental protection and social accountability are intrinsic parts of the company’s philosophy. Casalgrande Padana is constantly striving for excellence in order to ensure it can meet any architectural need. It also offers first-rate services through its Padana Engineering consulting firm, specialising in providing assistance at any stage of a project, from the selection of materials to the development of the project.

The company’s Research Centre is constantly developing innovative products and cutting-edge solutions designed to respond to modern architectural requirements. These range from facades to engineered flooring (raised, floating, heavy duty), solutions designed to make the most of public areas and reduce architectural barriers and tiling for swimming pools. Yet Casalgrande Padana is also blazing a trail at the new frontier of bioactive ceramics for architectural applications, with our revolutionary Bios Ceramics® range of stoneware tiles boasting excellent antibacterial, self-cleaning and pollutant-reducing properties.

Another big part of Casalgrande Padana’s history is its commitment to supporting important initiatives within the world of architecture. First and foremost is the international Grand Prix architecture competition, first launched in 1990 to reward projects that best harness the technical properties and expressive potential of the company’s range of porcelain stoneware products. The award is now considered one of the most prestigious international events in the ceramic architecture calendar.

Promoting a culture of production and design has been the cornerstone of Casalgrande Padana’s development strategies for nearly 60 years and will continue occupy a central role as the company strives to strike the perfect balance between economic development, technological advancement, environmental protection and shared wellbeing.