

# ZEITRAUM



Excerpt

**Sustainability report**

Excerpt • Sustainability report 2018

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Above all, a sustainability report has to be transparent. It is primarily about facts and figures. But for us, sustainability is more than something that can be measured in numbers; it is a basic attitude.

## PROLOGUE

**From the outset, since our company was founded 29 years ago, that has been the motivating force of everything we do. Ecological evils were quite perceivable even back then, and it was clear that all areas of business would have to undergo a radical change in thinking. It is alarming that it has taken this long for a global awakening to come about, which means that the problems have become more acute. On the other hand, there is a tremendous amount of research in the field of alternative materials, resulting in the appearance of innovative, ecological alternatives on the market. We are observing these developments intently and are constantly in search of even more sustainable components for our furniture.**

The focus will always remain on our core material, which is solid wood. Wood and the woodworking craft are cultural assets with a long tradition and have shaped the lifestyle of people for centuries. This tradition is especially important here in the Alpine region, where ZEITRAUM is located. Wood is a very sensual, down-to-earth material. By the time the finished furniture is in the homes of our customers, it has passed through many hands, leaving behind its traces and its energy. With each design we strive to acknowledge the beauty of nature. This beauty is revealed to the users as soon as they run their hand over the wood and become familiar with the furniture.

In a fast-paced, hectic world, wood has a grounding effect on people, giving them back some of their identity and rootedness formerly imbued by homeland and nature. For us, the craft of woodworking is a gem to be preserved and cared for. Our furniture is made for a long life – it will be future heirlooms. Because sustainability also means: sufficiency. This term means living mindfully with few things, but of high quality. True to the motto of “Less is more”! If we all would live by this maxim, we could create a healthy world worth living in for all creatures. This is the world we strive for every day, in everything we do.



**Best regards,  
Birgit Gämmerler und Peter Gaebelein  
Managing Directors of ZEITRAUM**

ZEITRAUM was founded in 1990 on the premise that quality, design and sustainability should always go hand in hand. To this day, that has not changed.

## PHILOSOPHY

We have always manufactured our furniture in fair cooperation with mid-sized enterprises in the wider region. The contribution to a world worth living in is a basic element of our corporate strategy.



QUALITY  
DESIGN  
SUSTAINABILITY

Well-made wood joints, an expert and material-friendly construction in combination with high-quality craftsmanship make our furniture tough, durable and repairable. It contributes to a sustainable lifestyle, in which objects have an ecological source and can be repaired instead of replaced. The **timeless design** makes our furniture independent of trends. Our goal is that it can be used for several generations. One of our priorities is a **socially responsible and resource-friendly production process**.

For more than 30 years we have stood for ecological commitment and respect for nature. In addition, we strive unceasingly to further reduce any negative environmental impact from

our production, and to replace our secondary materials with even more ecological alternatives based on the latest research. We see it as our responsibility to protect the environment and the health of the producers and the customers. Hence we require the same ecological commitment of our production partners. Only with this understanding is sustainable action possible.

In this respect **transparent communication** is essential. This excerpt from our sustainability report provides everything you need to know about us and our products – in a nutshell. A more detailed version is available for download as a PDF on our website at **[www.zeitraum-moebel.de](http://www.zeitraum-moebel.de)**.

In view of our fast-paced society, media saturation, and the pressure to consume, many people feel the need for something that is permanent ...



## QUALITY

This feeling can be achieved especially in the interaction with high-quality, natural raw materials. They still contain the essence of nature, a sense of the original, which people long for. To maintain this essence in the production process, we have defined quality standards.



... SOMETHING  
WITH SOUL THAT  
ACCOMPANIES  
THEM IN LIFE.

### HIGH-QUALITY MATERIAL – FROM THE OUTSET

For us, the quality of the material starts during the design process. In our product development, every design is accomplished with **minimum use of materials**. In the interest of material recycling we not only think about the input material for the furniture, but also about how it is manufactured, transported and packaged. By constantly analysing all process and production levels for an object, in continuous exchange and innovative planning with the production partners, we can think and act in an ecological manner.

**Seals and certificates** make it easier for us and our customers to evaluate the ecological quality of a product. ZEITRAUM places value on transparency. At the same time, we know that a seal is not only a guarantee for quality. That is why we continuously test, analyse and revise the quality of our raw materials, in order to remain true to our claims.

## MATERIALS

## Certificates of manufacturers and suppliers

**European solid wood**  
(Ash, Oak, European walnut)



**American solid wood**  
(Walnut, Cherry > AHEC)

The Evergreen Initiative  
NHLA

**Derived timber product**



**Oils**



**Lacquer & stain**



**Glue**



**Linoleum from Forbo**



**Ceramic**



**Fabrics from Kvadrat**



**Fabrics from Rohi**



**Leather from Elmo**



**Leather from Reinhardt**

Cradle to Cradle  
CFC-free  
LGA pollutant-tested

**Cushioning material**



**Mattresses**



**Slatted base system**



**Lamshade coverings**

REACH

**Cable socket & plug**



**Metal**



**Metal fittings from Blum**



**Moulded fleece**



**Cardboard packaging**



### Certificates of the materials used by us

For a description of all certificates, see [www.zeitraum-moebel.de](http://www.zeitraum-moebel.de)

## CRAFTSMANSHIP

Our high standards do not stop at the selection of materials. The production process is also very important. Ecological production is a must for us. That is why we choose partners who are committed to our goals of

- environmental compatibility
- quality
- transparency
- responsible product development

and comply with the standards of the US Sustainable Development Goals. These goals stand for **social, ecological and economic sustainability** and against forced labour, human rights violations, discrimination and corruption.

In addition, the **transport routes** should be kept as short as possible. The majority of our producers are therefore within a radius of 400 km from our location. Production facilities are primarily in Germany and northern Italy.

But sustainable production alone does not create a living product. That is why we place so

much importance on **craftsmanship and experience**. Our furniture receives the finishing touches in the workshop literally by hand. The craftsmanship of our production partners includes assessing the grain of a piece of wood, to feel the uneven areas and create a satin-like finish. In doing so, they follow the traces of nature, the annual rings in the wood or the staple of the wool, and manufacture products in harmony with the material. A rich store of experience serves as the basis for their work and allows them in the end to create **unique pieces of furniture**. This allows us to maintain the originality of the starting material and gives us a piece of “cultural work”.

At ZEITRAUM we use only raw materials that are renewable, biodegradable or recyclable.

## MATERIALS

**We also ensure that all materials meet the highest standards with respect to toxic emissions. These so-called volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are components that can be emitted from materials. We only use such compounds that are manufactured without noxious chemicals and release no volatile, organic components during use.**

We also make every effort to maintain transparency with respect to the materials we use. Despite our high standards we must sometimes use raw materials with a negative ecological balance. In these cases, there is no ecological alternative with similar outstanding properties. We therefore continuously search for better solutions to **improve the environmental accounting of our products.**

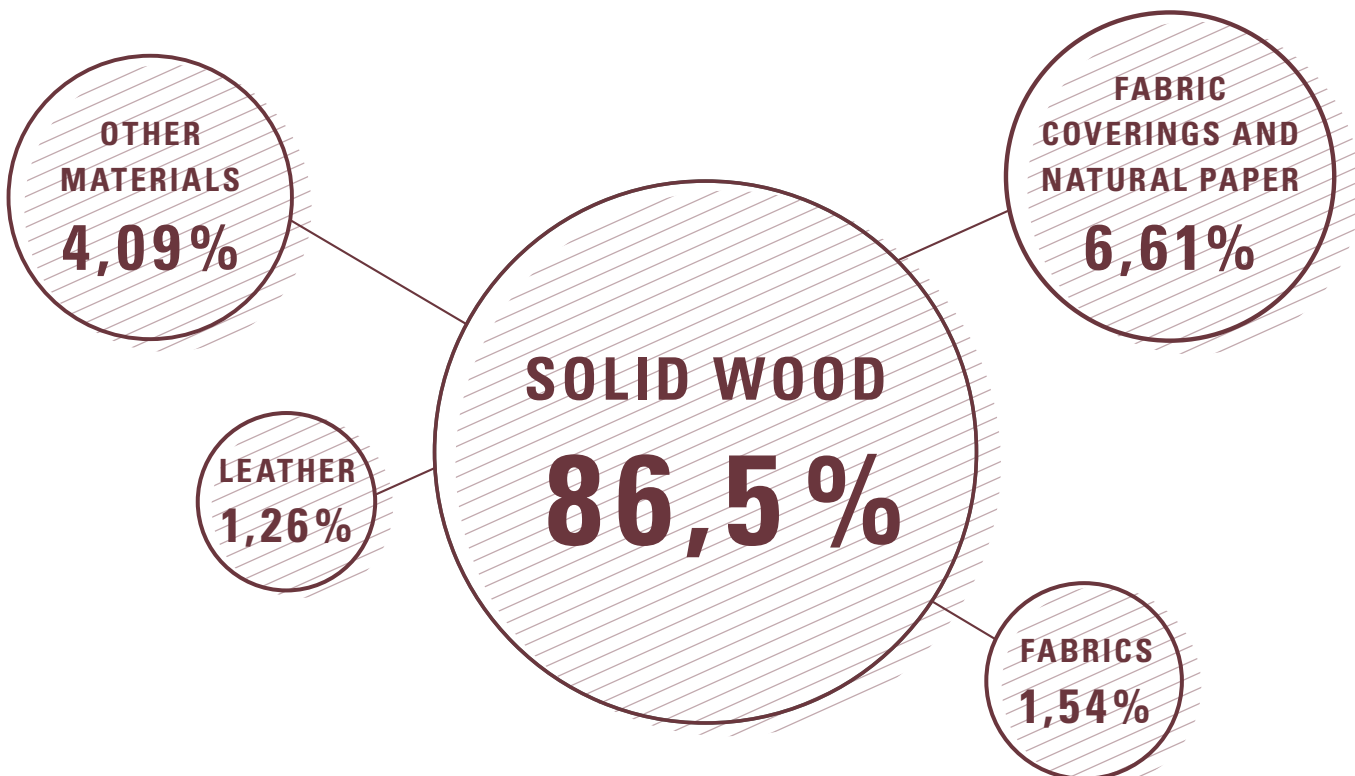
## WOOD

**When it comes to wood ZEITRAUM uses almost exclusively solid wood instead of panel material. In addition to low energy consumption, reasons for using solid wood include quality, durability and natural recyclability.**

Of the wood used for ZEITRAUM furniture, **60.35% comes from Germany** and **38.50% from America**. All wood from Germany complies with the FSC and PEFC standards. The forests are often only minutes away from the shops of our carpenters. If that is not the case, as with the European walnut tree, we ensure sustainable procurement of the raw material in keeping with our philosophy. An overview of our woods:

- Oak (northern Bavaria)
- Knotty oak (northern Bavaria)
- Ash (northern Bavaria)
- European walnut (Germany)
- Beech (Lower Saxony)
- American walnut  
(Pennsylvania and Missouri, USA)
- American cherry  
(Pennsylvania, USA)

For many years we have been procuring our **American woods** from family owned companies in Missouri and Pennsylvania. The companies are members of the "American Hardwood Council" (AHEC) and work with transparent and sustainable processes ([www.american-hardwood.org](http://www.american-hardwood.org)). In order to comply with the standards of the European Timber Regulation (EUTR) AHEC developed an "environmental profile" in 2013 in cooperation with the Stuttgart-based environmental software developer Thinkstep Ltd. It contains all environmentally related data such as the ecological balance of different species of wood, growth per second and incidence, as well as annual harvest figures. Since the 50s, the growth of forests in the USA is again gaining ground.



Sustainable management of forests and the fact that wood is an **enormous CO<sub>2</sub> store** have a positive effect on the ecological balance. Even wood that is **imported from the USA has a better ecological balance than an MDF panel from Bavaria**. In addition, 90% of the thermal energy needed for harvesting, processing and transporting wood from the USA is generated from biomass.

To manufacture chair seats, for example, we use **bentwood**, which consists of several veneer layers. They are glued together and pressed into shape by applying heat and pressure. In our current product spectrum, about 10% of our solid wood furniture uses bentwood. We are vigorously searching for an alternative material that is not glued and can be manufactured ecologically.

Only one product (the CODE shelf) is made of MDF – for which we are looking for an ecological alternative. If one compares the two materials based on the **GWP** (global warming potential) and the **PENRT** (Primary energy non-renewable, total), then it becomes apparent that the energy consumption for manufacturing an MDF panel is almost seven times higher than for lumber (ecological balance data of the "ÖkoBauDat" for different wood-based materials, 2018).

The surfaces of our woods are generally treated with **natural resin oil**, which retains the natural colour of the wood. We use only high-quality oils that are free of biocides, safe for people and nature, and manufactured without the use of paraffins, artificial resins, preservatives or artificial waxes. After it is treated, the wood can breathe, and the surface remains open-pored. This allows the wood to absorb and give off moisture, which not only creates a **balanced room climate**, but is also antistatic. That is especially important for people who suffer from allergies, because the open-pored waxed furniture does not attract dust.

In addition to natural resin oils, we also offer our furniture with **painted and stained** finishes. We use so-called HYDRO pigment stains, in which coloured pigments are dissolved in water. After the dispersion is applied, it penetrates the wood, the water evaporates, and the coloured pigments remain in the wood. This results in only 1% VOCs (volatile organic compounds), so that our stain can be considered to have a low environmental impact.

The paint we use is a highly durable, solvent-based two-component paint. Polyurethane paints have a high solvent content, which makes them ecologically questionable. There is still no eco-friendly alternative with the same properties (resistant to abrasion, water, oils and chemicals, and easy-care).

## OTHER MATERIALS

### Other materials used by ZEITRAUM are:

**Fabrics:** We purchase fabrics from the suppliers Rohi and Kvadrat. Kvadrat is a family owned company in Denmark that manufacture fabrics with the highest ecological standards. This is evident by awards such as the EU Flower ecolabel and in-house endeavours to integrate all products in a cradle-to-cradle life cycle. Kvadrat, for example, creates innovative fabrics from recycled PET bottles. Rohi is located in Geretsried, only 15 km from ZEITRAUM. For 75 years Rohi has been manufacturing sustainable, high-quality wool fabrics, which have received numerous environmental certificates. Surplus fabric is for example used creatively by the subsidiary 13Rugs to make rugs.

**Leather:** an animal product that has been in use since 8000 BC. We use only leather that is sustainable throughout the entire production process – from livestock breeding to tanning. All leathers are vegetable tanned and are manufactured with low environmental impact and without the use of AZO dyes.

**Linoleum:** A natural product made exclusively of renewable raw materials such as linseed oil, cork powder or jute fabric.

**Iron:** A material of natural origin, which consists of 50 % scrap metal and is recyclable. Iron is used in the luminaire series NOON and in the frames of the OKITO and FORM chairs.

**Aluminium:** It is the third most abundant metal in the earth's crust and is fully recyclable. Since it has a poor energy balance, however, it should be replaced as soon as possible. Alumi-

nium is used in the tray of the occasional furniture PLAISIR.

**Bioplastic:** Ecological composite material consisting of grass fibres (75%) and plastics. Since 2018 we have used bioplastic as a stacking buffer for the OKTIO PLY, but hope to use the material in the future for other products as well.

**Textile coverings and natural paper:** For the luminaire series NOON we use a combination of textile and natural paper, which has a natural material content of 90%. The textile covering is 75 % viscose and 25 % nylon.

**Ceramic:** One of the oldest cultured products known to mankind and can be fully recycled. Our raw material made of Italian clay is used in the dish of the occasional furniture series APU.

**Moulded fleece:** Consists of polyester fibres that are pressed at a high temperature without any additives. Our moulded fleeces bears the OEKO-TEX Standard 100 certificate and the LGA TÜV seal. It is considered a very eco-friendly and energy-efficient material. Moulded fleece is used for the cable tray in the RAIL office table.

**Polyurethane foam:** We use an HCFC-free and CFC-free MDI polyurethane system. It complies with REACH and the OEKO-TEX Standard 100. It is used in models such as MORPH LOUNGE & POUF, ZENSO LOUNGE, NONOTO LOUNGE and FRIDAY. Nevertheless we are searching intensively for alternatives in this area.

We live in a world with  
an over-abundance  
of things and in which  
people are losing  
the ability to help  
themselves.



## REPAIRING AND RECYCLING

**On the hand, the DIY-movement is on the rise and people's awareness for ecological problems is stronger than ever. On the other hand, technological advancements make it ever more difficult to repair cars, phones and laptops without special tools and equipment. Society has become more and more of a throwaway culture in which people would rather replace something that is defective than have it repaired. Manual skills are neglected in education, so that the young generation often have no idea how to fix a flat tire on a bicycle and therefore resort to a YouTube video clip for help.**

This way of life does not correspond to the philosophy of ZEITRAUM. We are indebted to the maxim of the American architect, designer and philosopher Richard Buckminster Fuller (1895-1983). It says:

A large circle with a hatched background containing the quote: "NEVER DESIGN ANYTHING YOU CAN'T REPAIR!"

**"NEVER  
DESIGN ANYTHING  
YOU CAN'T  
REPAIR!"**

Our products are **separable and repairable from the very beginning** – because these two aspects constitute a sustainable, self-sufficient way of life.

Our furniture can be repaired – either in our in-house workshop in Wolfratshausen or by yourself. By having a close look at their furniture, our customers will take pleasure in discovering small traces of life. We provide them with a care set, which they can use to make small

repairs themselves. Customers who live greater distances from our workshop are advised to take their furniture to the nearest specialist, to minimise logistical expenses and environmental impact.

**For us, a repair is not a financially expedient solution, but rather a sustainable attitude toward life, which results in more independence and self-determination.**

# Until the 2020 sustainability report, ZEITRAUM has set the following goals:

**From the torrent of seals and certificates we want to select those that correspond to our standards for our products. That includes a close and critical analysis of the seals and evaluation of their genuine credibility. The seals should be suitable for mid-sized enterprises too and meet their flexibility, but also enjoy broad European recognition. We are looking for something that will better serve to define and measure our quality.**

We will strive for these goals in the coming years:

**Naturland:** the most stringent seal in Germany for ecologically sustainable products is awarded by Naturland. It prohibits the use of pesticides in wood, deforestation and planting of non-indigenous trees.

**UN sustainable development goals:** These 17 goals by the UN for sustainable, economical, social and ecological development took effect on 1 January 2016. Our goal is the highest possible approximation to the areas that are relevant for us.




**CERTIFICATES  
AND  
SEALS**


## OUTLOOKS AND GOALS

**We already use sustainable and 100% ecological processes in many areas. However, we continuously think about ways to optimise these processes. For the next two years we want to improve the following:**

- To use only green electricity and natural gas in production
- Smaller transport volumes, such as introducing the flatpack for the OKITO chair
- Full material utilisation in the manufacture of products and the use of remnants for small parts
- Reduction of paper in administration to a minimum, using electronic means instead
- Become more economical in the design process and further reduce the quantity of material



**REDUCTION  
OF OUR  
CONSUMPTION**



**ALTERNATIVE  
MATERIALS**

**With respect to the materials themselves we are also seeking economical, ecological and technological alternatives. We are striving to optimise our current materials in these areas:**

- Replace filling materials in upholstered furniture with material produced using modern moulding technology
- Use recycled metal only
- Replace adhesive tape for packaging with alternatives made of paper
- Manufacture small parts from bioplastic
- Find alternative adhesives for wood

traditionelles Holzhandwerk  
TRADITIONAL WOODCRAFT

persönlicher Bezug  
PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION

selbstbestimmte Handarbeit  
SELF-DETERMINED HANDICRAFT

qualifizierte Kenntnisse  
QUALIFIED SKILLS

neueste Technologien  
STATE-OF-THE-ART TECHNOLOGIES

*MASTER  
CRAFT  
FROM  
SOLID V*



PIECES  
ED  
WOOD

Vielfalt

DIVERSITY

sinnlich

SENSUAL

einzigartig

UNIQUE

Klassiker

CLASSICS

Erbstück

HEIRLOOM

Materialehrlichkeit

HONESTY OF MATERIAL

Kulturgut

CULTURAL ASSET

CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral

CARBON NEUTRAL

reparierbar

REPAIRABLE

nachhaltige Forstwirtschaft

SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY





