

# Engineered Solid Wood

As experts on solid wood furniture craft, De La Espada recognises the strengths as well as the limits of the material. Though the majority of furniture produced in our factory is made from solid planks of hardwood in the traditional sense, some designs call for a different sort of solid wood: an engineered solid wood. This material cleverly harnesses the beauty and strength of solid wood, while increasing the design possibilities when used as a planar material.

Solid wood is a living, breathing material that continues to expand, contract and change throughout its lifetime. It requires very specific bracing when used as a planar material to prevent warping and other movement. Certain designs do not allow for such braces or similar construction, so engineered solid wood is used instead.

There are two types of engineered solid wood we use, each constructed from layers of solid wood adhered with environmentally friendly water-based wood glue.

## **Sandwich wood:**

This material is comprised of planks of solid spruce sandwiched between 4mm thick boards of our signature timbers. We use this material for our Solid&Co wardrobes. The solid spruce core provides a sturdy substrate material for mounting hardware and other joinery based connections, while the generous 4mm thickness of the exterior wood provides a renewable surface for a wardrobe with enduring beauty. Sandwich wood allows us to use solid wood as a planar material, the wardrobes built in generous proportions, flaunting the beauty and strength of solid wood with the increased stability of a composite.

## **Multi-layer wood:**

This material uses 4mm thick planks of our signature timbers, cross-banded with alternating grain directions to create an engineered wood made from a single hardwood. Essentially a reconstruction of a plank of solid wood, this material retains all the benefits of solid planks of timber including a renewable surface and consistent appearance even with rounded edges, while having the added benefit of greater planar stability achieved through the lamination of planks in alternating directions. This material minimises waste, as the less desirable planks of wood, such as those with sapwood or knots, are used for the inner layers. We use this type of ply for designs including Light Table and Light Oval Table from the Matthew Hilton range, where the sleek lines of the tabletop would be undermined by traditional solid wood bracing.