

## ■ SLEEK STORAGE MEETS INTEGRATED TECHNOLOGY IN ROCA'S NEW FURNITURE UNIT

Bathroom specialist Roca has announced the launch of the Stratum-N Bluetooth® connected furniture unit. With high demand for innovative technology in the bathroom space, Roca is among the bathroom specialists leading the way with this newly re-designed furniture unit that perfectly combines technology and a stylish design.

Hidden discreetly under the drawers are integrated Bluetooth® speakers, which can project sound comfortably yet effectively around the bathroom. The unit also benefits from internal LED lighting which can be activated at the touch of a button.

The Stratum-N base unit comes with one or two deep-set, soft close drawers and optional organising boxes to provide sectioned storage for family toiletries and products. Choose from 900mm, 1100mm or 1300mm, wall-hung or vanity, single or double basin options to create a unit that fits perfectly in any desired bathroom space. A complementary reversible column unit is also available to add more storage space. The full range of furniture comes in either Yosemite or Gloss White finishes.



Source: <https://hoteldesigns.net/industry-news/sleek-storage-meets-integrated-technology-in-rocas-new-furniture-unit/>

## ■ SEARCH ENGINE FOR "SMART WOOD"

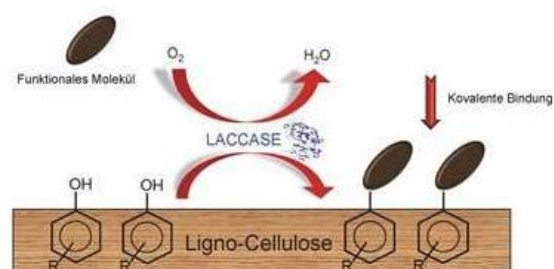
The enzyme laccase is able to alter the chemical structure of wood on its surface and thus facilitate biochemical modifications without changing the structure of the material. However, there are different laccases – and they don't all work in every case. Credit: Thordis Rüggeberg.

The enzyme laccase is able to alter the chemical structure of wood on its surface and thus facilitate biochemical modifications without changing the structure of the material. By attaching functional molecules, Empa researchers develop waterproof or antimicrobial wood surfaces, for instance. Also it is possible to make adhesive wood fibers, which can be pressed to fiberboards without any chemical binding agents. These solvent-free fiberboards are used for insulation of eco houses.

The problem: There are many variants of laccase, which differ in the architecture of the chemically active center, and not all of them react with the desired substrate. As it is extremely difficult to predict whether or not a particular laccase will react with a specific substrate, costly and time-consuming series of experiments are required to identify suitable laccase-substrate pairs.

Molecular simulations could solve the problem:

You simply need a precise structural analysis of the laccase to simulate the chemical reaction mechanism for every desirable combination on the computer. How laccase alters the surface of the wood: A desired molecule is bound to the cellulose in the wood chemically with the aid of the enzyme. Credit: Empa.



Source: <https://phys.org/news/2018-07-smart-wood.html>

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