OSSERVATORIO
ABITARE

Three generations of high-quality anodizing

Equipped with one of the most updated and certified anodizing plants in Europe, Nece is the ideal partner for those who require the best in terms of quality, refinement and technology. We have met Nece's technical director Marco Fasolato to talk about it

In the market since 1969, Nece is now an example for reliability and for the high number of successes achieved. Their main goal is customer satisfaction and with their fully automated anodizing plant, the company can satisfy the needs of all users for treated aluminum - from huge orders to small quantities. Leading company in anodizing, electro coloring and interference electro coloring for aluminum, Nece offers special finishing and initial preparation of metal through a series of operations like polishing, sandblasting, ARS brushing, Scotch brushing, cross brushing, cloud effects, vibration and anti-scratch treatment to make the surface abrasion-resistant. Nece's anodizing process- with thickness from 5 to 25 microns - attracts the interest of small local companies as well as prestigious corporations, many of which operate on international markets.

What was the trend of your business last year?

"The global stop imposed by the pandemic has been intense. We have managed to maintain a positive trend in our business, but the difficulties were many. 2021 began with a more optimistic spirit and we are definitely seeing a positive growth. The actual problem concerns finding raw materials and facing the costs deriving from them. We are heavily investing in unique colors and special effects to distance ourselves as much as possible from the classic markets - where only price seems to matter. We care for and hope to penetrate more and more particular and diversified markets".

What are the strengths of your company?

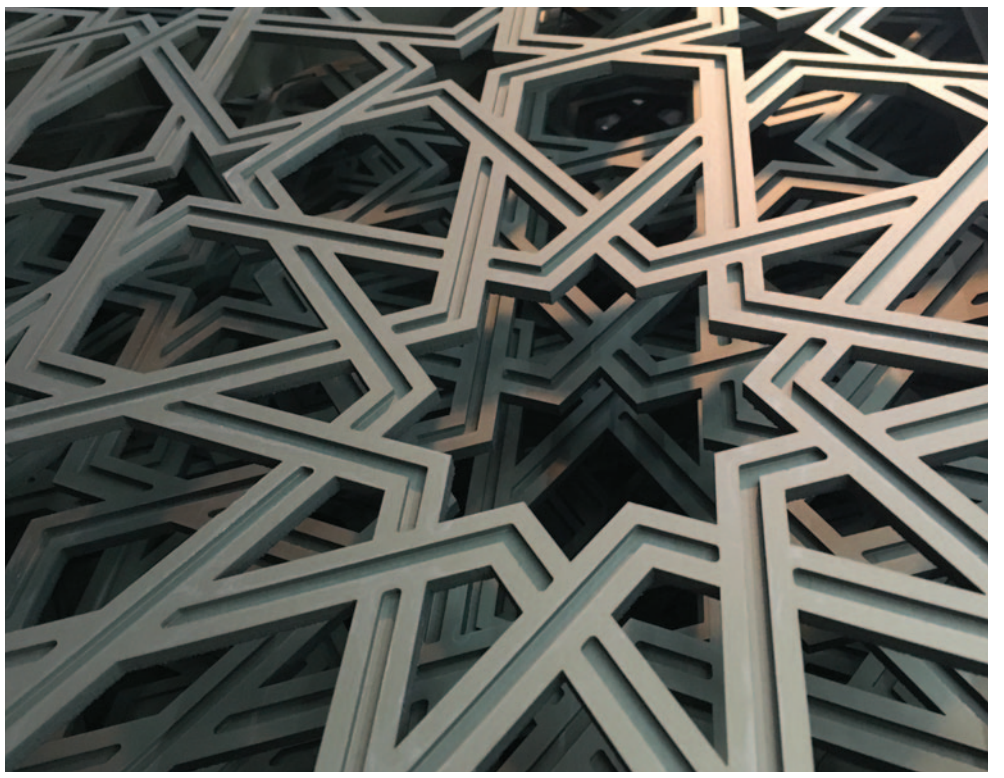
"Our forte is interference electro coloring. We were one of the first companies to provide this service and we are still trying to make our performance better every day. Among other things, we have recently added the light gray color to our palette and this has opened the road to new markets and unexpected collaborations with

Giuseppe Fasolato, ceo of Nece based in Borgoricco, Padova (Italy) - www.nece.net

international realities such as Google. We distance from our competitors because we carefully analyze our customers' needs right from the design stage. In fact, Nece is a customer-oriented company, that places the customer at the center of every process. Our constant challenge is proving our ability to adapt to our consumers' requests, to meet them as quickly as we can and to get an immediate response in their product orders. Customers today require higher quality, careful analysis and the guarantee that the delivered product complies with technical specifications. Other strengths of our company are invisible components, a reliable supply of goods, color endurance over time, internal and final cleaning and our care for the right packaging for every context".

What certifications can your products boast?

"Nece has been operating for years according to the quality standards dictated by Qualanod, Euras-ewaa, Iso 9001 and Iso 14001. Working in compliance with these regulations, guarantees that the production processes carried out at Nece's anodizing plants follow certain quality standard. An ever-increasing number of customers additionally request a special certification for their batch of material treated with anodization. This certification is issued following tests and analyzes carried out during production and at the



NECE IS A CUSTOMER-ORIENTED COMPANY, THAT PLACES THE CUSTOMER AT THE CENTER OF EVERY PROCESS, ENSURING A CAREFUL ANALYSIS OF THEIR NEEDS, RIGHT FROM THE DESIGN STAGE

Foolproof traceability system

In those fields where aluminum is used and the highest quality is required - not only from an aesthetic, but above all from a structural point of view - it is necessary to ensure total traceability of anodized aluminum. The currently widespread traceability system is based on transportation documents and orders, that trace the date of arrival and departure of the goods. From these data one can assume when production took place and then go on to make assumptions on the plant data. This is not an accurate tracking system for sure. "After years of studying and testing, Nece has implemented a reliable traceability system, based on data recorded by the production management system, acquired through optical barcode scans and carried out in different stages. Furthermore - with user and password - our clients have the possibility to check the status of each single order online to grant maximum transparency".

end of the process - thickness anodizing coating measurement according to ISO 2360 standard and fastening quality test according to Uni En 12372-7 standard. The certification of the anodizing treatment is an optional service that can be requested even for minimum batches - 300 kg for silver and bronze or 150 kg for steel, black electro coloring".

What is the Nece Academy?

In 2004, while building Nece's new headquarters, we created a training department to issue meetings aimed at clients operating in the fields of design, architecture, furniture, transportation, automotive and naval. The aim of our training sessions and meetings is to update the participants on issues related to aluminum like flaws, possible remedies and available surface treatments. Our meetings have recorded a considerable appreciation for the quality of information conveyed and for our purely operational approach. Word of mouth has made our company big in this area, as well as stimulating the demand from customers for training on production activities. It is mainly to respond to these requests as best as we can, that our company has founded the Nece Academy. Due to the pandemic, face-to-face training has been suspended. Virtual meetings are very tricky in our sector, because it is extremely important to see the product closely. However, we are confident that in a short amount of time, we will return to host our beloved professionals in our academy and exchange our experiences, with a common view for constant growth".

How is the anodic oxidation process cycle carried out in your company?

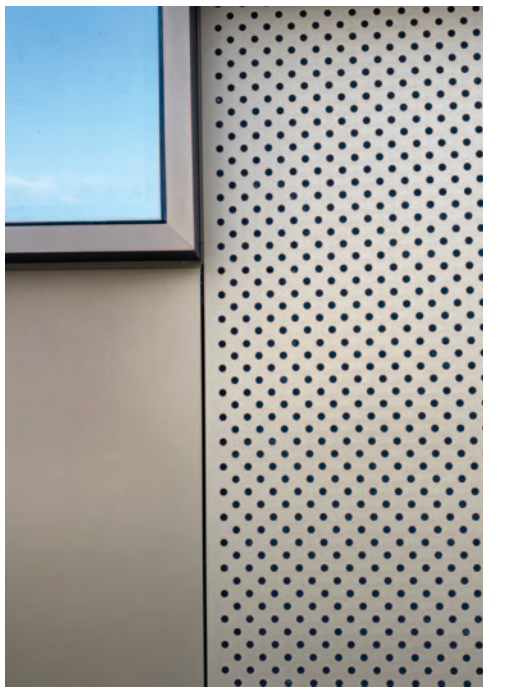
"The working cycle is subject to certain sequences and takes place using cutting-edge machinery. The material is moved and unloaded via electric side forklifts and subsequently stowed in the cantilever. Then the first check is carried out on the material to determine the overall weight, number and integrity of packages. During processing, the material is taken from the cantilevers and transported to the brushing area using forklifts. Operators then manually unwrap the material and perform a detailed check on it, setting aside any damaged or defective product and only then the information are entered in the management system. The material is then processed according to finishes. This can entail standard brushing, brushing machine with 6 heads above and 6 heads below - the steel and water brushes make the surface clean -, or Scotch-Brite brushing – i.e., automatic dry brushing with Scotch-Brite bristles. Sandblasting involves an 8-turbine automatic sandblasting machine using stainless steel microspheres and 360 ° processing, while chemical finishing is a chemical pre-treatment carried out before anodizing. After the selected process, the pre-treated material is hanged to supports, ready for anodizing. Having identified the color requested by the customer, the oxidation phase begins. The pluses are having 4 perfectly homogeneous oxide tanks for concentration, aluminum and temperature. Oxidation times vary depending on the type of finishing and microns desired. Following the identification of procedures, color and delivery note (packing list), the oxidation phase begins. Here we perform a third and vital thickness check on the oxide layer".

How are sustainable policies implemented in your company?

"We have always been attentive and supportive of environmental issues and we have worked to obtain the best international certifications in this field. A few years ago, we invested in a "solar cooling" power plant to bring more power to our anodizing system. This gives us the opportunity to cool the water with solar energy and thus reduce air pollution".

What are your future projects?

"Nece is an ever-evolving reality. Our Research and Development department is constantly striving for innovation, in line with the latest industry trends. For the very next future, we are planning an extension of 3800 square meters to our factory. This will allow us to optimize our logistics, separating the entrance of goods from the exit of our final products. In 2022, we also plan to build a new anodizing plant - hoping for a 50% increase in production capacity - and to implement new finishes and color effects, such as bi-colors". • **Ilaria Di Giuseppe**



THE NECE ACADEMY OFFERS MEETINGS AIMED AT CUSTOMERS OPERATING IN THE DESIGN, ARCHITECTURAL, FURNITURE, TRANSPORTATION, AUTOMOTIVE AND NAVAL SECTORS

Interference electro coloring

Interference electro coloring is a process increasingly chosen for the construction of huge buildings with aluminum structures and exclusive designs, exploiting innovative techniques and technologies to guarantee a long life. The advantages for this are numerous. The first aspect is the particular color rendering that only interference electro coloring can provide, compared to a painted aluminum surface and to the classic shades of traditional anodizing. High aesthetic quality is accompanied by high structural quality - i.e., resistance to light and abrasion - ensuring that treated aluminum parts remain unaffected over time. "This technology is to be considered fully reliable as it has been tested for several years by Nece, which continuously expands the catalog of colors and optimizes processing, offering the possibility of chromatic customization".