



LUMÉA

The Shell Experts

About Us

Luméa is the world's leading shell materials business.

A division of Ocean Shell Ltd, we have been sustainably sharing the ocean's beauty for more than 25 years.

From small beginnings in Riverton, New Zealand – a close knit coastal community - we are now the world's largest supplier of seashells from the South Pacific. We process over 80% of New Zealand's annual abalone or Paua harvest and trusted overseas partners supply us with other shells including White and Black Mother of Pearl, Trochus and Green Snail.

Ethical suppliers are key to ensuring the quality of Luméa shells. Specially chosen pearl farmers and fishermen from ocean-dependent communities are among our long-term partners based in countries such as Australia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and French Polynesia.

At Luméa we celebrate the diverse textures, colours and provenance stories of our shells.

Our family-owned business has developed a diverse range of shell products and materials and have created an international reputation as commercial shell experts. The range includes unprocessed shells, shell pieces, veneers and laminates, tiles, buttons and blanks, shapes, beads, wild pearls and more.

The shells are hand-graded by people who have spent years understanding the calibre, weight and colours of each individual shell.

Our expertise with shell as a design material comes from understanding both the natural qualities of shells and the modern technology used to process them.

Our shells and materials are used worldwide in fashion, furniture and architectural design – helping people in busy urban environments to reconnect with nature.



Bruce Shields
Managing Director & Sales



Nina Shields
Global Sales Director

Our Shells

Our shells are of Pacific origin - the stories of our wild Paua, Abalone, Mother of Pearl, Trochus and Green Snail begin along rocky coastlines and in pristine aqua lagoons.

Voyagers to the Pacific in the eighteenth century were struck by the natural beauty and vibrant island communities, a stark contrast to their urban, industrial homelands. When trading with Pacific Islanders, they were presented with 'shell money', currency carefully crafted from shells collected from the shores and coastlines. For these people, shells held intrinsic value, small natural treasures whose quality and colour determined their worth.

In the modern day shells have again found their place as a gift of worth. A way of bringing undersea beauty to the busy commercial world through fashion, architecture and décor.

Shells are naturally formed by the ocean and each shell has its own features marked by time, tides and territory. Nature's design is part science and part wonder, shaping the shells particular characteristics.

Different shells create different design possibilities. Over time, seashells take on individual shapes - the angles, curves, distinct textures and mysterious hues are formed by hard layers of calcium carbonate and sediment, each unique to their seabed environment.

Their inner layers of iridescent nacre, when revealed, refract bright shimmering colours, giving blues their deepest blues and greens their most intense greens.

We take great pleasure in presenting the shell in different forms, passing it on to a place where its natural beauty can be seen and appreciated.



Our Partnerships, Our Practice

Our divers and pearl farmers are citizens of Pacific communities who depend on sustainable relationships with the ocean.

They are professionals who respect the origin, growth and delicate nature of our shells. Harvesting practices are in line with their heritage and local laws. Constant communication and regular site visits keep us – and our international partners – informed and accountable.

Our long-term relationships with ocean-dependent communities, shell craftspeople, and designers are vital to the success of our value chain.

An exchange with us is more than a transaction - delivering on our principles of sustainability, regard for nature's design and respect for ocean-dependent communities is innate to our practice.

Delivering quality and value is part of our personal promise. Trust is an important ingredient.

We fully support and encourage regular monitoring of commercially fished sea beds. Thus the quality and supply of our wild shells can be affected by changes in sustainable management plans, voluntary reductions in harvest quantities, minimum size limits, and restrictions on harvesting areas.

We are vigilant in maintaining our understanding of all relevant practices and legislation to ensure consistent, high quality products. Luméa only deals with marine product exporters who hold an export license. We absolutely oppose overfishing and exploitation of sea beds.

Systems and processes have been specially developed to administrate the business effectively through a wide range of international relationships.



Our Range

	New Zealand Abalone	Black Mother of Pearl	White Mother of Pearl	Trochus	Australian Abalone	Green Snail	Pink Mother of Pearl	Chilean Abalone	Freshwater Mother of Pearl	Abalone Pearl	Wing Oyster	Mexican Abalone	Korean Abalone
Shells													
Whole Shells													
Polished	•	•	•	•			•						
Natural	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•				
Shell Pieces													
Ocean Tumbled	•	•		•			•		•				
Chip	•			•					•				
Surfaces													
Veneers													
Coated	•	•	•						•	•	•	•	•
Uncoated	•	•	•						•	•	•	•	•
Flexible	•	•	•						•	•			•
Tiles													
Listello	•	•	•						•	•			
Solid Shell	•	•	•						•				
Mosaic	•	•	•						•				
Components													
Shell Buttons													
Blanks	•	•	•	•	•				•				
Finished Buttons	•	•	•	•					•				
Shapes													
Polished	•	•	•				•		•				
Unpolished	•	•	•				•		•				
Beads	•			•									
Wild Pearls	•												

Experts in our Luméa studio offer specialised design and laser cutting services to customers around the world. Our team have an in-depth knowledge of our shell materials and are happy to assist with design projects and provide technical advice.

Luméa products are made from natural shell with a variety of factors that affect form and function. We recommend contacting us directly with specific enquiries about your design project.

