

# Romano CONSTRUCTION & MATERIALS

## **ARTISANS:**

At Romano we pride ourselves on having over 55 years' experience in manufacturing bench made quality upholstery.

Many of our craftsmen and women — from frame making to sewing and upholstery — have individually over 30 years' experience and who are proud to put their experience to work every day making exceptional furniture that will be at the centre of your living room. From the raw materials to the finished product, here is what goes into making a Romano.

## **FRAME MAKING:**

With over 55 years of experience in frame making, we stick to tried and true methods and tools.

We design and build our own frames from hardwood frame stock (not softwood like pine commonly found in imported products) and low formaldehyde plywood (never particle board or press-wood) sourced only from responsibly managed forests in Canada & the US.

Each plank of solid hardwood is measured, inspected for knots and cut to fit a specific model. The smaller trims are then used in the frame building process in order to optimize the use of material and reduce waste. The frame stock is dried to lower moisture content, and all frames are glued and corner blocked to prevent the frame from breaking or warping.

Our trained frame makers ensure that every frame that we build is robust and warranted for life. The sinuous steel springs used in Romano's seating suspension guarantee long lasting, no-sag comfort and are sourced in North America containing up to 60% recycled steel.

## **CUTTING & SEWING**

All of our designs are developed in-house. New designs are tailored by hand until the final patterns are developed to our entire satisfaction, at which time they are digitized in a CAD program. We have recently introduced a CNC cutting machine to the production line, this is our most advanced piece of technology that reads the CAD patterns and then accurately and rapidly cuts-out the individual pieces in the fabric of your choice. The CAD software also allows us to nest patterns automatically, effectively reducing the waste of fabric. After the patterns are cut, our seamstresses will accurately sew each part of the sofa together making sure that lines are straight and taut, usually employing an upholstery top stitch style with a matching colour of the thread to the colour of the fabric. Certain models feature special sewing details like a flange seam or piping details.

## **UPHOLSTERY & FINISHING**

In this department, the frame, fabric, foam and feathers come together under the hands of experienced upholsterers to give your sofa its final form: straight seams, taut fabrics, precise crowning are achieved only by a patient, skilled touch.

Most of our workers have over 30 years' experience in their trade, and we encourage them to pass down their knowledge to the younger generation that are passionate about learning a craft. Upholstery is a skilled craft that needs to be kept alive, and can only be taught through mentorship and collaboration that takes years of practice to master.

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When making new models, our designer will work directly with our master upholsterer to create new styles. For us this dialogue is essential to the development of a quality product, since the methods we have developed over time are what make our products unique.

We are honoured to be working daily with so many skilled craftsmen.

## **ENVIRONMENT:**

As a proud member of the Sustainable Furnishings Council, we are committed to employing sustainable practices in the manufacturing of our furniture.

We have instituted many eco-conscious initiatives and are engaging our entire workforce in thinking about ways to further advance our green approach to manufacturing.

Discover the specific eco-friendly features of each component that makes up a Romano sofa:

## **WOOD**

The birch hardwood frame stock and low formaldehyde BC fir plywood used in all Romano frames are sourced only from responsibly managed forests in Canada.

## **SPRINGS**

The sinuous, no-sag steel springs used in Romano's seating is sourced in North America and contains up to 60% recycled metal.

## **FABRIC**

We continue to offer a wide array of durable, easy to maintain and eco-friendly fabrics as well as 100% natural fabrics.

## **FOAM**

We use the highest grade of foam for use in residential or light contract furniture. Our foam is independently certified by CertiPUR-US, a certification program administered by a not-for-profit organization that ensures that the foam is safe for your home.

- Made without ozone depleters
- Made without PBDEs, TDCPP or TCEP ("Tris") flame retardants
- Made without mercury, lead, and other heavy metals
- Made without formaldehyde
- Made without phthalates regulated by the Consumer Product Safety Commission
- Low VOC (Volatile Organic Compound) emissions for indoor air quality (less than 0.5 parts per million)

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## **FEATHERS**

All Romano feather inserts contain a blend of white duck feather and duck down that are hypoallergenic and OEKOTEX certified to be free of harmful or toxic substances.

## **PACKAGING**

Our packaging is 100% recyclable. Employees helped implement a comprehensive recycling program that they participate in on a daily basis.

Purchasing a Romano is an investment.

We design our furniture with longevity in mind; we choose quality materials, employ durable fabricating methods and employ design aesthetics that will not soon be outdated. Also since all of our products are made to order you can choose from a multitude of different options to personalize your sofa to suit your individual style. So in the most fundamental sense, we believe that in making a personalized choice combined with a quality built product, you will keep and enjoy your furniture for many years and in so doing are fundamentally making the best decision with regards to the environment.

« All these measures help us reduce our carbon footprint and keep money in the local economy.

But there is more to consider. Our lean manufacturing approach means we only order what we need for a production. This means we keep a tight control on inventory, and nothing goes to waste. Using lean manufacturing is not only good for the environment, it also means for you as the customer a consistent high-quality, handmade product while keeping costs at a minimum. Manufacturing locally has always been an integral part of Romano. Our factory is situated in the city of Montreal. This gives us access to a pool of talent that would not be available elsewhere. Our neighbourhood is well known for its proud Italian community, and therefore it comes as no surprise that there is a long tradition of upholstery manufacturing in the area and suppliers are plentiful. Our foam, fabric, wood and feathers, springs and other hardware are all locally sourced and the electricity in our factory comes from renewable hydroelectric power. All these measures help us reduce our carbon footprint and keep money in the local economy.

## **PERSONALIZATION:**

Each piece is made to order. This means that you have the opportunity to configure something just right for you.

We offer a large variety of fill options, leg options, and fabric options that makes choosing a Romano something personal and unique that you can be proud to put at the center of your home.

## **FILL OPTIONS**

- Foam is a good option for a customer looking for a more tailored look, and a firmer support.

- Polyester fibres offer more softness but is still supportive.

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- Feather and down fills offer deeper and softer enveloping comfort with a much more relax look.

By mixing and matching the different fill combinations, we offer 8 types of seating packages to choose from:

## CLASSIC (CLA)

Our CLASSIC package (CLA) features the clean look of a foam seat and foam back with dacron overwrap that is typically found on styles with tight or fixed backs.

## SUPERIOR (SUP)

SUPERIOR fill (SUP) option is found on the widest selection of models and consists of dacron wrapped foam seats and removable back cushions filled with polyester fibre which is more plush option.

## MEMORY (MEM)

MEMORY foam is a new option for the foam seat. The advantage is that it provides a clean tailored look of the classic foam seat, but with a deeper and softer cushioning. The memory foam seat is paired with a feather back for optimum comfort.

## LUXURIOUS (LUX)

LUXURIOUS (LUX) feather and down filled seat and back cushions give our pieces a less structured look and are made to sink into. It is recommended that these cushions be fluffed regularly to improve the comfort and the look.

## ULTRALUX (ULTRA)

ULTRALUX is our highest quality down fill that blends a very high percentage of down with feathers. Ultralux cushions are lighter and have more loft making them noticeably plusher than our regular LUX fill making this the ultimate in luxurious comfort.

## HIP / KUL / FAB

DETAILS The HIP package is a good option for a customer looking for more support and clean lines of a foam seat, paired with the plushness of a feather back. Our KUL (foam) and FAB (polyester fibre) backs are options paired with a feather seat.

## LEG OPTIONS

Depending on the model, we offer a choice of metal or wooden leg. These options are visible on the product page of each model. Some of the metal legs and all of our wood legs are designed in-house, sourced locally and made by hand.

These are the 7 stain colours offered on our wood legs:  
Walnut, Espresso, Java, Graphite, Black, Natural, Satin

## FABRIC OPTIONS

You can just about put any fabric on any style. With thousands of styles and colours of fabric to choose from, picking a fabric doesn't have to be a daunting task.

To start with, we have done extensive legwork and curated a collection of 65 winning fabrics in one swatch book that should help guide you in picking a great fabric without the experience becoming overwhelming. We strongly recommend beginning by consulting our swatchbook which is available in all Romano retail outlets.

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So you've started narrowing down the fabrics but are still looking for a special colour or texture? Rest assured that you are not limited to just the 65 fabrics in our swatch-book - most of the fabrics that we recommend are also available in many more colour ways as well, there are many more patterns available through the various fabric suppliers' swatch books that we use. With easily hundreds of fabrics to work with and the guidance of the knowledgeable staff in the store, we are confident that you will find that special fabric that you are seeking.

If you are working with a designer or have already found a really beautiful fabric elsewhere - that's great! Because we also accept our customer's own material (COM) as long as it meets certain minimum specifications, just note that surcharges may apply depending on the fabric.

Besides colour and pattern, when considering a fabric there are some important factors to consider:

## COMPOSITION

More often than not, fabrics are composed of a blend of different materials. Natural fibres like silk, wool, cotton and linen, while rich and beautiful, are typically more fragile than man-made fibres and are more susceptible to damage from factors like staining, wear and tear, and fading from sunlight.

## POLYESTER

This is our most popular choice and is ideal for homes with children or pets. The advantages are : It is very durable, easy to care for, offers good resistance to waterborne stains, sunlight, insects, mildew, and abrasion. Polyester is often blended with other fibres to add wrinkle resistance, eliminate crushing of napped fabrics, and reduce fading. Polyester is entirely man-made but modern production methods can achieve a very natural look and feel of natural fibres at a more attractive price point

## COTTON

Cotton is a breathable fabric, this means heat and moisture can be conducted away from your skin when you sit on it. Natural cotton has hypoallergenic properties, so it can be a good choice for those who are sensitive to chemicals or wool. This natural fibre provides good resistance to wear, fading, and pilling. It is less resistant to soil and wrinkling. Surface treatments and blending with other fibres often atone for these weaknesses. Durability and use depend on the weave and finish. These fabrics get their appearance from the way they are woven. A damask weaves are formal; canvas (duck and sailcloth) is more casual and more durable, and cotton velvet is luxurious and can be extremely durable if the backing is woven tightly.

## LINEN

Linen has a well-deserved reputation for eco-friendliness. Flax is easy to grow without fertilizer or irrigation and it's naturally resistant to disease and insects, requiring little use of chemicals. It also possesses a natural resistance to bacteria, microflora, and mildew, making it a great choice for those with allergies. Linen is also resistant to pilling and fading. However, it won't withstand heavy wear, and it soils and wrinkles easily. Soiled linen upholstery must be professionally cleaned to avoid shrinkage.

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### WOOL

Wool is amongst the highest quality fibres for its richness, but also its natural properties. It is woven from fibres shorn from sheep, goats, and alpaca that may be blended. It is sturdy and durable, feels soft and warm in the winter and cool to sit on in the summer. Wool and wool blends offer good resistance to fading, wrinkling, and soil. Wools blended with a synthetic fibre make it easier to clean and to reduce the possibility of felting the fibres (causing them to bond together until they resemble felt). The cons of wool are that it can attract moths, it has poor sunlight resistance, and requires dry cleaning.

### DURABILITY

All of our fabrics have a “double-rub” count shown on its label to indicate the durability of the fabric. Each fabric undergoes a test in a special machine that passes a pad back and forth over the fabric until it shows signs of wear. Each back-and-forth pass is known as a double-rub. Domestic upholstery fabrics are usually rated at a minimum of 25,000 double-rubs, but we are careful to select more durable fabrics with the large majority rated at 100,000 ensuring that your sofa will continue to look good and wear well for many years.

### PERFORMANCE FABRICS:

Some high performance fabrics add a built-in protection to repel water and resist stains. Performance fabrics are easier to clean using only a damp cloth or mild detergent. Please ask your local retailer about their selection of performance fabrics, by such brands as “Crypton Home,” “Fibreguard” or “Sunbrella”.

We offer hundreds of different fabrics to choose from. Below are some of our most popular fabrics - please note that colours may vary from what is presented on screen - Please visit an authorized Romano dealer to see the entire collection and to appreciate the colours and textures.