

Ingredients of Marco Guazzini's Italian identity mix into his artisanal **alternative for marble**

MATERIALS — Marco Guazzini dives into his Mediterranean roots to find elements that represent his legacy. Woollen yarns from Prato, the Italian designer's textile-centred hometown, and waste marble collected from Pietrasanta, his holiday haven and the starting point of Michelangelo's *David*, become the main ingredients of Marwoolus, a material cocktail that solidifies his identity.

A lengthy experimentation process led to the perfect binder for uniting the dyed fibres and pulverized marble blend. Once poured into moulds, the liquid concoction enables the tufts of wool to be 'casually strewn' before hardening. He sculpts the resulting slabs as if they were quarried stone. The only detectable difference between Mother Nature's marble and the artisanal alternative? The

tactility of Guazzini's rainbow-hued pigments coursing through variegated veins.

Conceived for Gallery S. Bensimon in Paris, a pair of his bespoke objects recall 8th-century Yemeni temple ruins. Sculpted from the wool-infused marble, two rows of columns rest on two rectangular plinths. Tempio del Sole, which pays homage to the solar cycle, features uprights marked by streaks of lime green, turquoise and black rising from a white base. Its darker counterpart, Tempio della Luna, worships the moon; standing on a black base, its 16 columns display a mottled motif of orange and white striae. — LG

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