

AKDO's Akdolam and the Marble Garden

AKDO is a Turkish stone and marble brand best known for its innovative stone technologies and its Akdolam marble, the lightest commercially available natural stone.

Founded in Turkey in the 1990s, AKDO has grown to become one of America's most renowned luxury tile and stone brands. Within the past few years alone, AKDO's products have been shown in almost every top shelter magazine and have won a multitude of prestigious design awards.

Marble is one of the oldest construction materials and is loved around the world for its unique and natural aesthetic. Yet marble's cost, weight, and environmental impact have made it difficult to use in many modern architectural and design projects. AKDO's flagship Akdolam marble, a lightweight, flexible and durable honeycomb design, makes it easier to integrate marble into a greater range of projects.



AKDO last year announced a competition for young Turkish architects to design a Marble Garden in Istanbul's Silkar Plaza focused on biophilic design, a key tenet of AKDO's philosophy which incorporates natural materials, natural light, vegetation, nature views and other experiences of the natural world into the modern built environment.

Akdolam lends itself naturally to biophilic design. Akdolam's features which allow this new integration of marble into contemporary environments include the laminate marble's light weight, cost effectiveness (because less marble is used), ease to transport and install, flexibility in design, and durability that make it an ideal construction material. Each piece of Akdolam is custom made according to architects' and interior designers' projects using digital methods, giving the opportunity for creative and innovative design.

The Marble Garden competition invited young architects to emphasize unique structural and aesthetic solutions for creating a natural environment with biophilic design strategies to improve the quality of life in modern cities. The Marble Garden was constructed as an indoor pavilion, an ecological space which integrates marble with natural vegetation.

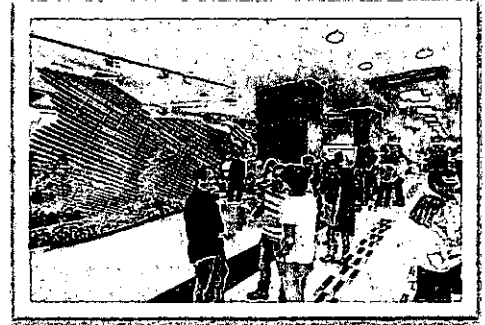
The competition chose from conceptual designs based on a short list of 5 young architects chosen by an expert jury consisting of renowned architects Han Tümertekin, Brigitte Weber and Nevzat Sayın. From this list the jury chose one design as a winning proposal, constructed in the main lobby of the Silkar Plaza in Istanbul and pictured here, as well being exhibited along with all the short-listed proposals in a group exhibition.

The key features of Akdolam include:

- Availability on a variety of backing materials, aluminium honeycomb, fiberglass, ceramic and glass;

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- Installation period 3 times quicker than with marble panel through a variety of installation techniques;
- Lightweight - Akdolam honeycomb panels are 5 times as lightweight as solid marble stone panels of 3 cm;
- Strength - their impact strength is 60 times greater than marble panels of 3 cm;
- Variety of surfaces, polished, honed, flamed, bush-hammered or sandblasted finishes
- Ecological -reduced waste amount compared to natural stone slab.



Today AKDO, which has three state-of-the-art showrooms, including a distribution center in California, a newly renovated showroom and operations facility in Connecticut, and a flagship showroom in Manhattan's Flatiron district, is expanding to the UK. Turkey is a powerhouse in the global marble industry, with around a quarter of all global trade in marble emanating from Turkey. AKDO's expansion is part of a broader boom in Turkish marble- exports topped \$2billion in 2017.

For more information on Akdolam visit <http://tr.akdo.com/urunler/akdolam>

