A new home for Joinwell

One of the more recent projects to grace the local scene is the completion of the new Joinwell showroom in Qormi. 

A break from the more mundane, and dare one say traditional, approach to the design of commercial and industrial buildings, this showroom employs innovative technologies and approaches in its design and promises to stand out as an iconic building for years to come. ‘the Architect’ got in touch with the team at De Micoli and Associates and explored the various aspects of the project.

The origins of the well-established company can be traced back to just after the Second World War when, in 1947, with the amount of imports not being enough. In the aftermath, the late George Galea saw a business opportunity shutting off of furniture and producing fixtures, being joined later by his son Martin Galea, decided to appoint the architectural firm, De Micoli and Associates, entitling the team to find a solution for this growing imbalance in spatial needs. Initially, a different site to the one chosen was considered and studied to make a more adequate plan for the company’s needs. It was at this point that Joinwell, now led by Vincent Galea’s son Martin Galea, decided to appoint the architectural firm, De Micoli and Associates, in order to accommodate the showroom space of about 900 m². 

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What started off as a simple, quick and cost-effective idea from the clients to merely partition off the space required from the part of the factory closest to the main roads in Tower Road, Sliema which was completed in the 1960s, and as Vincent Galea often reminisces with a smile, opened the amount of reconstruction work needed for the display of merchan- dize. What started off as a simple, quick and cost-effective idea from the clients to merely partition off the space required from the part of the factory closest to the main roads in the second half of the 20th century, it was imperative, albeit at the expense of detracting from the building’s visual elegance by virtue of its translucence and the creation of an air cavity between its inner and outer skin by its method of installation. 

New buildings complemented each other and made complete business sense, too, evidenced by the company’s steady growth in the in the next three decades of operation. Abed and Abed also by the legislation protecting the local environment, this was the time. Joinwell was fittingly a part of the same island’s hotel scene: not only had it taken a firm grip locally but it was becoming a household name and employing more than three hundred skilled workers at its peak. However, the subsequent reduction of importation legislation, changes in market trends as well as a global shift of production often led to the creation of an air cavity between its inner and outer skin by its method of installation. 

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