

It was a meeting of minds when Tongue & Groove owner Richard Karsay and famed designer Greg Natale collaborated on a groundbreaking collection of luxury engineered floorboards.

## In the GROOVE



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The idea was simple and elegant: luxury flooring reimagined as a canvas for artistic statement. Tongue & Groove has been supplying Australian homes with quality engineered timber floorboards for almost 20 years, but owner Richard Karsay envisioned something even grander – a marriage between architectural flooring and the inspiration of global design icons. The result is the striking Co.Lab Series. “We wanted to align ourselves with visionary creatives and help them transform our oak boards into masterpieces of their expression,” he says.

The first of these rewarding partnerships is with award-winning Australian interior designer Greg Natale, whose sophisticated Bosco Collection is inspired by European modernism and mid-century tiles, manifesting his tessellating designs on timber boards. This was an opportunity Greg relished. “It’s a technical product – working with undulating curves is very precise,” he says. “It was a challenge working with highly engineered floorboards with a tongue and a groove, but the bonus is that they are incredibly stable.”

The result is stunning yet practical parquetry interpreted with pattern and geometry, waves and Cubist inspiration. There are five designs: Ada, Asti, Albini, Andreani and Piero. Ada is all organic undulation and architectural precision, whereas Asti is an avant-garde puzzle box of gentle curves. Albini features graceful, gentle arcs; Andreani is a stark contrast with its pentagonal shapes and geometric audacity. Meanwhile, Piero is essential Natale in its bold, structured, tile-like pattern – an MC Escher print in solid oak.

“Piero was very on brand – it started as a tile design in my office,” says Greg of the range that’s available in Chiaro (light) and Scuro (dark) as well as the 16 standard colour options that all patterns have. “Ada is the reinvention of chevron and herringbone. With Andreani, I wanted something contemporary.

“The beauty of this collection is that it can go across minimalist and maximalist interiors,” concludes Greg. “A lot of these patterns had been done in tiles for ‘harder’ areas such as bathrooms. I’m really happy that now I can bring the patterns into a softer material like timber.” Clearly, the dialogue between artistry and craftsmanship has never been stronger.

[tongueandgroove.com.au](http://tongueandgroove.com.au); [@tonguengrooveau](https://www.instagram.com/tonguengrooveau); [gregnatale.com](http://gregnatale.com)



This page (from top) Interior designer Greg Natale, at left, and Tongue & Groove owner Richard Karsay willed this project into physical form after discussing it for a number of years. // On display from left, the Ada, Albini and Asti patterns, all in Freado; three examples of the striking Piero design in Scuro, Chiaro and Freado; and Andreani in Freado. All patterns are available in a range of up to 16 colours. Opposite The Ada pattern in Chamoisee, placed in gorgeous situ on a kitchen floor.

