

Italy

## SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

### BioBuildingBlock

Created in Campania, BioBuildingBlock is a green building solution developed by founder Marco Citro. The product, known as the Bio-Panel, has already received approval from the Italian Patent and Trademark Office (UIBM) – with international approval pending – and is the latest innovation in green, smart, and safe solutions for the construction industry. BioBuildingBlock actively collaborates with universities and research institutions such as the Strength Department of Engineering at the University of Salerno, and the Construction Technologies Institute of Italy's National Research Council (ITC-CNR) in Milan, to further enhance the product's exceptional versatility. The innovative Bio-Panel is made from wood and metal, and its hollow centre can be filled with natural materials such as wood, cork shavings, or wool, to offer thermal and acoustic insulation.

Thanks to its cutting-edge design, Bio-Panels can easily be fitted together to construct a variety of structures, from single-family homes and large villas to commercial properties, whilst they can also be applied to traditional mortar structures – showcasing their versatility. With environmentally conscious principles at BioBuildingBlock's heart, the Bio-Panel's contribute to a rapid and waste-free construction, with many of its components reusable to promote a circular economy. Furthermore, the thermal insulation properties of the Bio-Panel can reduce energy usage within and boost the sustainability of these green developments. Marco continues to build relationships with developers, both in Italy and much further afield, enabling the innovative Bio-Panel to make a seismic impact on the global construction industry.

The judging panel was particularly impressed by the broad application and abundant potential displayed by Marco's innovative solution. BioBuildingBlock's intelligent Bio-Panels can enable a range of uniform and entirely customised properties in the residential and commercial sectors because of their design and could be integral to developing vital facilities such as small clinics and hospitals where they are needed most – and in rapid time. BioBuildingBlock has considered the environmental impact, sustainability, and human health effects of the Bio-Panel at every stage of development, as each piece is created without the use of harmful pollutants such as Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) in the production process.

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Innovation and sustainability are the core principles that guide BioBuildingBlock, as it looks to nurture a green revolution in the construction industry.



[www.biobuildingblock.com](http://www.biobuildingblock.com)  
+39 089 296 6037  
[info@biobuildingblock.com](mailto:info@biobuildingblock.com)