“True passion has nothing to do with reason, it’s a compulsion.”

Torben Hansen
Wood is a product of nature; each piece is unique. Schotten & Hansen has a deep respect for the natural beauty of wood and a deep appreciation of working with the variable character of the material. We use our craftsmanship to enhance this material, to reveal its soul. The unique Schotten & Hansen surface is the expression of this vision: its subtle graduations, its grace and responsiveness, all combined with the careful accentuation of its charming natural irregularities. Our 25 years experience of working with wood, our honest dedication and passion makes the difference. A difference that can be seen – and felt.
The distinctive feature of Schotten & Hansen wood floors, interiors and furniture is their unique and natural aesthetic. An appearance that comes from both the material itself and the Schotten & Hansen surface that we carefully incorporate into it. This is achieved by a specially developed process, every stage of which contributes to the unique character of the wood.

Using traditional artisan methods, the original colour of the timber is emphasised or softened and by using precious colour pigments we introduce new shades. The Schotten & Hansen surface treatment also involves a special, wholly natural process, that replicates the natural ageing of wood by sunlight. From the very first day, Schotten & Hansen surfaces have the typically soft shade that wood usually only develops after many years.
Careful treatment with brushes and planers creates the expressive structure of textures in the surface of the wood. Natural oils, waxes and resins complete the process. These maintain the carefully hand-crafted structures and allow full expression of the character of the timbers. Each step forms part of the painstaking Schotten & Hansen surface treatment, which varies according to the type of wood and the colour tone desired. It requires several weeks to complete the full surface treatment process. The result is an exceptionally distinctive surface that not only provides aesthetic pleasure, but also makes every Schotten & Hansen wood floor and furniture item unique.
The defining elements of the harmonious whole: Character Selection

No two planks are alike. The boards will display different characteristics according to the history of the tree and the part of the trunk from which they were taken. To create a final harmonious whole, the wood is carefully sorted by a master craftsman into one of three main categories. Each of these categories brings out a different character – from calm and elegant to spirited and characterful.

**Fine selection**
With an elegant and calm appearance. The fine grain shows an even structure with few small knots or cracks, and an all round consistency to its appearance. The boards are taken from the outer layers grown later in the life of the tree. They are therefore also on average somewhat narrower. Typical widths 16 – 28+ cm.

**Medium selection**
With lively expression and grain structure. We take this wood from the range that lies between the outer layers and the core of the trunk. Here we find the more open grain, more frequent, larger knots and distinctive cracks, which are then restored by hand as in old times. Typical widths 16 – 34+ cm.

**Coarse selection**
Is the pure heart of the tree. Wood from this range, from the core of the trunk, shows a very lively character. It reflects the events of the entire 200 year history of the tree, showing all its natural features: significant branch knots, extended grains and distinctive cracks from shrinkage and growth stresses. These are repaired and restored by hand to lend a powerful particular character to the board. Typical widths 18 – 36+ cm.
Above all, it is our craftsmanship that creates the special nature of the final surface. Whether Brushed, Planed by hand or Shrunk – each surface treatment brings out a different mood and feel to the surface. Each treatment affects the play of colour and the reflection of light and depth of shadow, allowing each floor and piece of furniture to develop its own unique character.

Brushed
This process gently removes the soft Spring growth leaving the harder Summer wood as the actual walking surface. This creates a subtle light reflecting surface. As you walk on the board the higher dimension is lightly polished and the fine grain is enhanced, becoming more and more elegant with age.

Hand planed
The boards are planed by hand in the traditional way using a Schropp plane with a slightly curved blade. This results in a surface with subtle variations in surface texture, created uniquely by the hand of an experienced carpenter. Light reflects from the contours of the board. Each board has its higher and lower dimension and again, as you walk on the wood, each step gently polishes the higher dimension. Thus the board is an eloquent result of the action of man on nature and ages with great beauty.

Shrunk
This patented technique creates a dramatic contoured surface emphasising the structure of the wood. The dense portions of each board, such as knots and the edges of cracks rise up above the surrounding surface and create an ever changing look and feel. The coarser the character selection of the board, the more dramatic the shrunk features become. The result is striking, richly textured and remarkably resilient.
At Schotten & Hansen our principle for treating timber floors is that a natural, organic product should be treated with equally natural, biological materials. We do not use man made synthetics to colour or seal the wood, but treat it only with materials supplied by nature and, in many cases, by the tree itself. Precious resins, waxes and oils such as beeswax and eucalyptus oil preserve the natural beauty of the wood and offer real and significant advantages:

**Breathable:** the open-pored nature of the surface allows it to breathe. Unlike varnished floors, where scratches and cracks and moisture movement can all cause the hard seal to fail allowing moisture and dirt to penetrate the timber surface unevenly, resulting in deterioriation of the wood and spots and cracks with bad staining, the Schotten & Hansen surface allows any moisture present to evaporate harmlessly, ensuring that floors and furniture remain durable and intact.

**Regenerating:** care products made with natural materials produce a resilient surface that can be regenerated. Specially designed Schotten & Hansen care products allow the surface to maintain an even protection, recover from everyday stresses and return to its original condition.
**Durable:** Schotten & Hansen wooden floors and interiors retain their long-term value and substance. Their surfaces, in contrast to varnished timber, can be refreshed or renovated at any time, without ever having to be sanded down.

**Hard-wearing:** the surface, air-dried in the traditional way, is hard-wearing and resilient enough for use in both domestic and public areas. The surface is water and stain resistant and has a reduced sensitivity to marks.

**Natural warmth:** sealed wood surfaces are cold in winter. Breathable surfaces, on the other hand, have a temperature regulating effect, so floors and furniture will feel pleasantly warm.

**Healthy indoor climate:** naturally treated wood surfaces balance out variations in humidity, as a result making people more comfortable. They are also anti-static.
Colour Collection Oak

The unmistakeable colour of a Schotten & Hansen surface results from a combination of many things: the original colour of the wood, which is nurtured and allowed to develop, the precious rock and earth pigments that penetrate deep into the wood and reflect the light, the hand-crafted surface structure with contours and hollows, enlivening each colour creating a unique and vibrant play of light.
In addition to the Oak collection Schotten & Hansen have an extensive range of other timbers, such as traditional softwoods native to Germany as well as exclusive exotic woods. We have created our own distinctively subtle colours, expressing the character of each of the wood species. Each colour tone is achieved by the same painstaking surface and colouring process as for the oak timbers.