



Canadian Plastics
Industry Association

“Unlimited design possibilities with PVC/vinyl windows and doors” says Designer Piero Facchin

When Montreal designer Piero Facchin designed his weekend retreat, he chose PVC/vinyl for his windows and doors. “I didn’t think twice,” he said. “Dollar for dollar, PVC has a great look at a reasonable cost – often costing less than for other materials.”

Some people may still think that PVC is limited to regular-sized windows and patio doors. However, today’s designs have proved that PVC windows and doors can be formed into any shape, providing an almost unlimited variety of architectural styling options. PVC windows and doors can be used in new construction, renovation projects, and even in historical restorations. For example, PVC patio doors can be over nine feet wide and PVC windows can be designed in virtually any length. Piero Facchin has designed PVC windows in excess of 11 feet long that wrap around corners. PVC’s high strength makes it ideal for these applications, since it is very dimensionally stable.

“I couldn’t have done this with any other material for the same cost. Not only is it clean-looking from a design perspective, but also very easy to keep clean” says Facchin. “PVC windows and doors do not promote the growth of mould or mildew, which make them ideal for any climate including coastal and tropical areas.”



Picture credits : Piero Facchin, M.Arch.
Project by: Studioprofil Architecture Design (designed by Piero Facchin)



Picture credits: Piero Facchin, M.Arch. Project by: Fulvio Febbo Architect



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PVC windows and doors also come in a wide range of colours. Since the pigment is embedded throughout the window frame, they never need painting, saving money and reducing ongoing environmental impact. In addition, finishes are available to suit almost any design specifications; including simulated wood and real wood laminates on interior surfaces and capping with other materials like black aluminum on exterior surfaces. They are also available in many styles such as single or double-hung, sliders, fixed, casement or tilt-and-turn windows.

“I don’t see any limits to PVC windows” says Facchin, “special effects, such as wood grain finishes are so lifelike, it’s almost impossible to tell the difference.”

Facchin recently collaborated with Fulvio Febbo, architect from Laval, on a large house where the clients accepted their recommendation of PVC simulated oak for the windows. They loved the idea of not only saving money, but also having little or no future maintenance.

“With today’s advanced technology, I wouldn’t hesitate to use PVC windows and doors, since the design options are unlimited. In addition, PVC windows and doors are good for the environment since they are virtually maintenance-free, offer many decades of use and can be recycled at the end of their useful life” says Facchin.

Piero Facchin has 30 years of experience in architecture and design. He has a bachelor’s degree from Montreal’s UQAM school of design; a master’s degree in architecture from Université de Montréal. He has also studied at McGill University, Harvard Graduate School of Design and Schools of Architecture in Italy.

He now runs his own architecture and design consultancy firm, STUDIOPROFIL, and continues to strive to create projects that combine elegance and simplicity through form and function.

The Canadian Plastics Industry Association is the national voice of Canada’s plastics industry, representing the interests of processors, material suppliers, equipment manufacturers, recyclers and brand owners across the country.



Historical restoration