

arche



Manufacture and materials totally dedicated to well-being

Manufacturing Arche shoes requires about one hundred manual operations. A team of qualified men and women who love their job perform these operations that are the guarantee of quality, and a demonstration of unique skills.

Three fundamental elements are integral parts of Arche quality and contribute to footwear comfort: shapes, materials, soles...

Shapes :

Hundreds of hours are spent carefully perfecting and studying shapes.

They are constantly updated in function of evolution and fashion trends, and are adapted to regional morphological differences.

A unique manufacturing procedure for maximum well-being, even after hours of walking and wear.

Materials :

The most beautiful leathers of European origin:

nubuck calf, glove quality full-grain calfskin, deerskin, peccary...

Our leathers are traditionally tanned with extreme care to preserve their authentic look, their exceptional softness, all of their natural qualities that make Arche shoes so comfortable.

Soles :

Soles made of 100% natural Latex, pure hevea milk.

Harvested in tropical Asia according to ancestral traditions, stored in liquid form so that it will not be denatured, poured by hand into sole moulds created by Arche, hevea milk gives exceptional comfort to Arche's soles.

Hevea milk is noble and living, an exceptional product.

The label, Lactae Hevea, guarantees authenticity.



An artisanal manufacturing spirit, supported by strict and perfectly controlled industrial procedures

With this 27,000 m² industrial site in France, nestling among the Castles of the Loire Valley, Château-Renault offers Arche an entirely modern production unit.

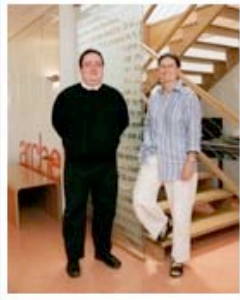
Equipped with cutting-edge tools employing the very latest technologies, the company has also combined the management, administrative and sales services there.

Arche's first secret of success for the past 30 years has been its Style Office. An integral part of the production unit, it works on anticipating the fashions and trends of tomorrow. Drawings of new designs, the creation of prototypes, the finalisation of models, it is a world of creation and imagination which draws its inspiration from fashions from all over the world.

Research into soles, the basis for Arche's legendary comfort and flexibility, is also conducted at this centre devoted to walking comfort. The aluminium moulds used to manufacture the hevea milk soles are also designed there.

The choice of skins used for the shoes is the key to offering the most flexible and fashionable models. It is a vital step in the development of Arche footwear. The extreme suppleness and the quality of traditional tanning, based on an artisanal technique which respects the leather's natural appearance, is one of the many secrets behind the comfort of Arche. This quality also defines the rich range of Arche colours, with the skins being dyed to the very core.

arche



Catherine et Pierre-Emmanuel
Hélaïne



To know more about founders :
Pierre-Robert and Andrée Hélaïne

Pierre-Robert and Andrée Hélaïne founded the company June 28, 1960 in Tours.
The brand name "ARCHE" was created and registered in 1968.
1968, the company takes over the Establishments Lecoeur-Poret in Beaulieu-Les-Loches.
1973, takes over the Establishments Hungito in Château-Renault, and Majesté Company.
1976, opens a showroom in Paris. Arche opens shops in rue du Faubourg Saint Honoré in Paris, Blois and Tours.
1978, the brand's first media campaign in feminine fashion press.
1979, Château-Renault, Bel-Air, construction of an industrial building of 1,600 m2
1981, Arche opens a shop in the Halles in Paris.
1982, founding of Base and Sodexa Companies, uses Arche name shops.
1983, acquires a site of 27,000 m2 rue du Pléteau in Château-Renault.
1984, founding Arche Inc, subsidiary in the United States.
1987, transfer of all activities to new site rue de Pléteau.
1989, new extension of 1,400 m2 for the site at rue de Pléteau.
1992, involved in European research project: CRAFT.
1992 December, promotional campaign on the theme of "well-being".
1992, international lawsuits against counterfeiters for models registered by Arche.
1993, exhibit at the Decorative Arts Museum at the Louvre, "Myths and Symbols"
1993, opening of a showroom at 237 rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré in Paris
1993, Catherine and Pierre-Emmanuel, the founders' children, enter the business.
1994, construction of a social building and restaurant for personnel.
1996, construction of a building for specific storage for hevea milk soles.
1996, Special prize from the jury of Touraine-Export, European diploma for the Trophées de l'Entreprise
1997, the founder, Pierre-Robert Hélaïne passed away.
1998 summer, more than 650 guests to celebrate Arche's 30th anniversary.
1999, opening of "shop in shop" in China, Shanghai and Peking.
2000, participation in JB Martin & Arche Shanghai Ltd.
2000, purchase stores in Rennes, Paris la Madeleine, Lyon and Saint Germain.
2000, opening of shop in White Plains, New York.
2001, Andrée Hélaïne entrusts responsibility of the business to her children, Catherine and Pierre-Emmanuel Hélaïne.
2001, opening of flagship store in New York. Award for US Best Design for Retail Store.
2002, opening of Arche KK Japan, opening of corners in large department stores in Osaka, Tokyo and Yokohama.
2003, opening of Arche Canada. Opening of stores in Copenhagen and Athens.
2005, 40th store in China.
2006, 50th store in China. Opening new store Madison Avenue, New-York
2007, Opening new store in Lyon France
2008, Opening new store in Las Vegas, 40 years of Arche
2009, Opening new store in Tokyo, Renovation Paris La Madeleine