



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE --- 10/15/2008

## **WICANDERS Cork Oak Flooring & TATE Access Floors— World Leaders in Sustainable Building Solutions Join Forces**

HANOVER, MD, October 15, 2008—**Amorim Flooring**, the manufacturer of **Wicanders Cork Oak Floors**, announces its affiliation with **Tate Access Floors, Inc.**, the largest access flooring company in North America. Tate will be the OEM supplier in North America for Wicanders' new line of access floors called **Wicanders UP**, which combine the natural features and benefits of cork oak with advanced technology to create a commercial flooring system that is flexible, durable, and energy efficient. **Wicanders UP** is made with 92% recycled material, contributing to **LEED®** certification in the *Materials & Resources* and *Indoor Environmental Air Quality* categories. In the US, **Amorim** is stocking six products in the **Wicanders UP Series 2000 and 4000** covering a wide range of cork and wood visuals. Many other visuals are available by special order.

**Tate Access Floors, Inc.** has more than 45 years of experience creating sustainable building solutions, and is a **recognized worldwide leader** in the research, design, manufacture, distribution, sales, and installation of raised access floors.

**Wicanders UP**—the only access floor covering that is 3.2 mm thick—has the added advantage of Wicanders' **High Performance Surface® (HPS)**. Conceived and constructed for use in high traffic areas, it is tougher than any other high resistance finish in its class. With a **15 year Commercial Warranty**, HPS® is considered to be a revolutionary innovation in the flooring market. Based on the strength of nano-bead technology, HPS® works by embedding a fine shield of nano-beads atop the surface layer to protect and preserve **Wicanders UP** from scratches, scuff marks, dents, abrasions, stains, and UV damage. This fine layer of nano-beads has a lower gloss level for a natural look and provides excellent traction to prevent slipping. HPS® is unique, in that it retains the natural properties of cork flooring.

**Wicanders UP** allows for the creation of different flooring combinations of cork textures and colors, and personalization through the screen-printing of logos and other design features.

**Wicanders UP** provides thermal insulation, acoustic dampening, health benefits, and resiliency for new construction and building refurbishment. Cork oak is also free from allergens and hidden germs and is naturally anti-microbial, anti-bacterial, and hypoallergenic. Wicanders flooring is now produced with **Acrodur®**, a purely water

based, 100% formaldehyde-free binder created by BASF. It is used in the agglomeration process of cork. Acrodur® is an innovative alternative to the classic reactive resins like Melamin-Formaldehyde and Polyurethane. Wicanders products stand out due to **lower VOC emissions** and an **improved ecological performance**.

**Amorim's** cork products represent a unique balance between the creation of wealth and the protection of the environment. The cork industry is remarkably sustainable; it takes a natural raw material, extracted cyclically from trees without ever harming them, and turns it into high value-added products. The cork industry continues to promote the economic and **social sustainability of areas that are at risk of desertification**. The world's cork oak forests' role in reducing CO<sub>2</sub>, by preserving biodiversity and in fighting desertification, is now recognized as both fundamental to, and a unique example of, true sustainable development. Wicanders **products retain the CO<sub>2</sub>** that would otherwise be contributing to global warming. The CO<sub>2</sub> retention capabilities of Portugal's cork forests are estimated to be as high as 5%, or 4.8 million tons, of the country's annual emissions per year.

**Tate dealers** are invited to contact their Tate sales representatives or Amorim's North American Headquarters to order product samples and sales literature with technical data about **Wicanders UP**. Wicanders also offers training and informational meetings upon request to Tate dealers at their locations. Contact Amorim Flooring NA, to set up your appointment.

*Amorim has been the environmentally conscious world leader in the cork oak industry for over 130 years. Amorim's North American headquarters is located in Hanover, Maryland. For more information about **Wicanders UP Access Flooring**, please contact Amorim Flooring, N.A., at 410.553.6062 or visit the Wicanders website at [www.Wicanders.com](http://www.Wicanders.com) or blog at [www.WicandersCorkOakBlog.com](http://www.WicandersCorkOakBlog.com).*