

April, 2024

# CKCA visits Blum Austria And Salone Del Mobile, Milan

Austria and  
Italy

Tony Henry, Blum Canada

## CKCA visit's Blum Austria

On Sunday April 14<sup>th</sup> members of the CKCA gathered in Dornbirn, Austria, many of them for the first time. Excited about meeting fellow members from across the country, seeing the Blum facilities and then visiting the EuroCucina show in Milan, Italy

On behalf of Blum, a special thanks to the CKCA for organizing the event, and its members who made the trip.

The first night was an opportunity for the group to mingle, network and get to know each other. Enjoying a dinner together at the Gutle a well know restaurant in Dornbirn. Our friends from AFDICQ in Quebec also joined us, our two groups filled the entire restaurant. All having a great evening, a nice way to start a trip and have everyone come together.



## Visits to the Blum factories

Monday April 15, 2024

The group visited 4 of the 8 factories in Austria. Our Headquarters, engineering and our apprenticeship facility, and two of our newest and largest production facilities in Dornbirn.

We visited the Blum head office and showroom. The group had plenty of time to experience the entire showroom viewing our wide range of products, hinges, drawer and lift systems and our new pocket system REVEGO.

Plant 3 is always one of the most interesting for our visitors. We all gathered to hear a presentation from a first-year apprentice, taking us through the selection process, basic training, and work pieces she has produced so far. One of the 250 apprentices that Blum has in house during a calendar year. There are 11 different certifications offered, taking between 4 and 5 years to complete.

Lastly, plants 7 and 8, the newest and two of our largest production facilities. The group was introduced to Julius Blum's first production machine on display, one that made studs for horseshoes so they would not slip on the icy mountain roads, long before cars were a resource in the area.

All had a chance to view the complex automated assembly of our CLIP top BLUMOTION hinge and how 59 individual parts are assembled to produce a finished product.

Stamping, roll forming, linear stamping using large steel coils to produce parts for hinges, mounting plates, AVENTOS arms and runner systems. With any excess material going immediately into recycle containers.

The tour allowed people to get an up-close look at how hinges, drawer systems and AVENTOS products are manufactured and assembled.

Tuesday April 16<sup>th</sup>. A boat ride across the lake of Constance into Germany. We had lunch and toured a brewery. The evening spent having dinner surrounded by an exotic car collection.



The group making their way into Blum Austria's factory.



The Canadian visitors overlooking the plant.

The Boat



The Beer



The car collection



Thursday April 18, 2024

# Salone de Mobile EuroCucina

Milan, Italy

## On the road to Milan

Wednesday April 17, 2024

The bus ride from Austria through Switzerland and arriving into Italy was smooth with beautiful views all along the way. The group had a chance to stretch, have some lunch and take in Lake Como during a short break. The check into the hotel in Milan was seamless and well organized.

The EuroCucina was an extremely busy fair in April 2024, the halls packed with vendors showcasing the latest trends in Kitchen, bath and furniture.

My interpretation of the exhibit this year was differentiation, how basic products like wood, glass, aluminum and concrete can come together to create unlimited possibilities.

Please see the link for our EuroCucina trend report:

<https://www.blum.com/explores/en/salone-del-mobile/trendreport-2024>

