



# ORIENTATION PROGRAM

## PART 3: FOLIAGE

# ITALIER

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## MOLDING

- Research & Development
- Sampling
- Production

## ASSEMBLY

- From single leaves to shoots
- Framing



**MOLDING**

## R & D



Currently, Ila has a more than 50 wide foliage choice.

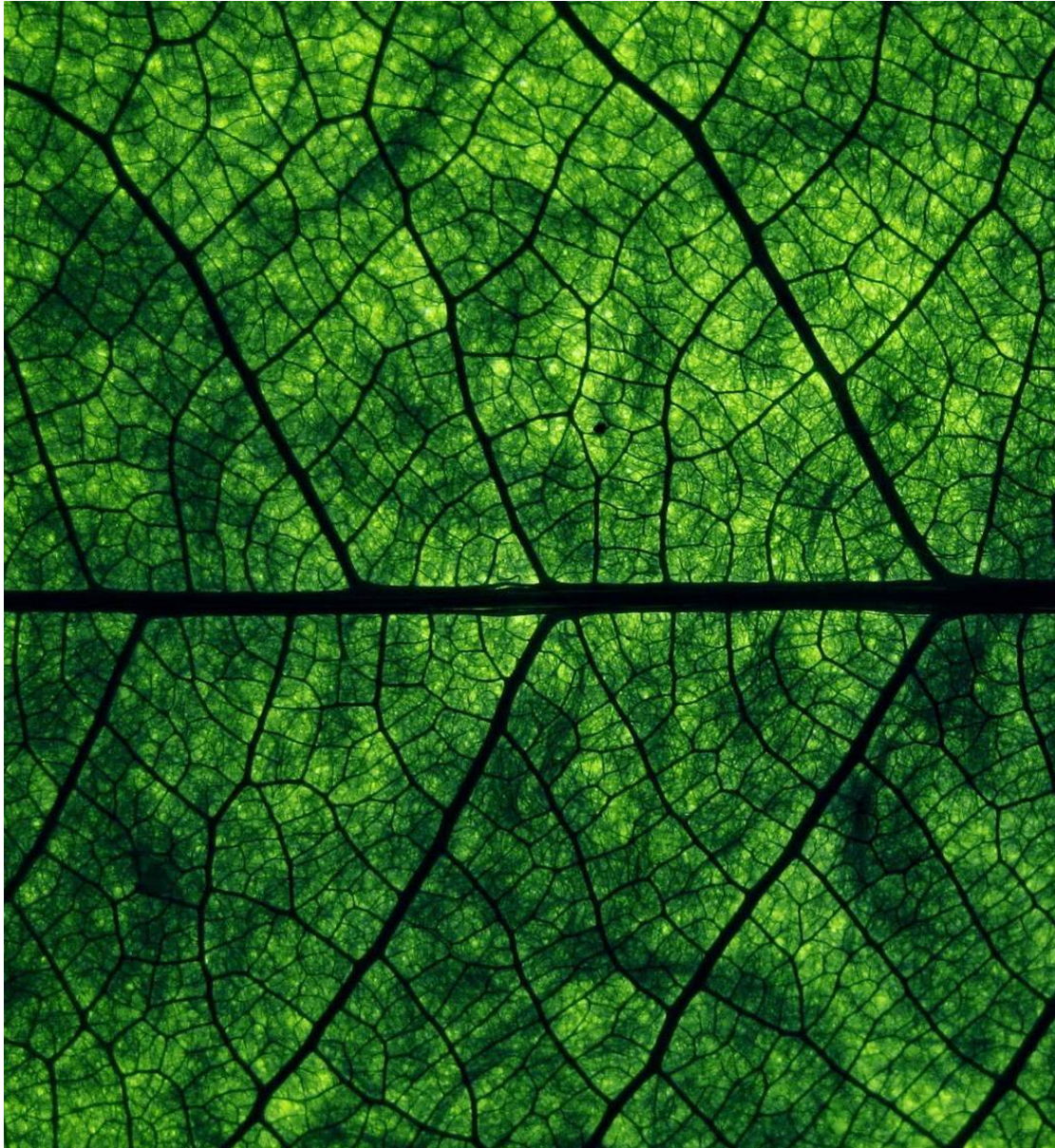
In years, foliage types have evolved and changed, but all share the same process.

The very first step is the observation of Nature, in order to pick the right leaves that match the following constraints, in a continuous research process:

- value for design purposes
- trends
- demand
- reproduction feasibility
- cost/effectiveness of reproduction

*[the bigger and the more detailed the leaf is, the more complex and expensive the mold and work will be]*

## SAMPLING



Once a leaf is collected and properly stored, its shape and features are captured by a X-ray machine and a ultra-HD camera.

The features to be precisely captured, in order to be measured and replicated, are:

- shape
- dimensions
- exact colour hue(s)
- veins frame
- thickness
- horizontal curvature (corrugation)

The dimensional features are then replicated in a gypsum mold.

## SAMPLING



Veins and patterns are then screen-printed on large plastic or fabric sheets.

These materials are chosen according to mechanical features that leaves will need, for example stiffness or softness, texture, behavior to light, colour rendering, etc. ...

The sheets are first coloured, following the exact desired hue.

Then, sheets are grouped, stacked and cut in single leaves by copper cutting molds.

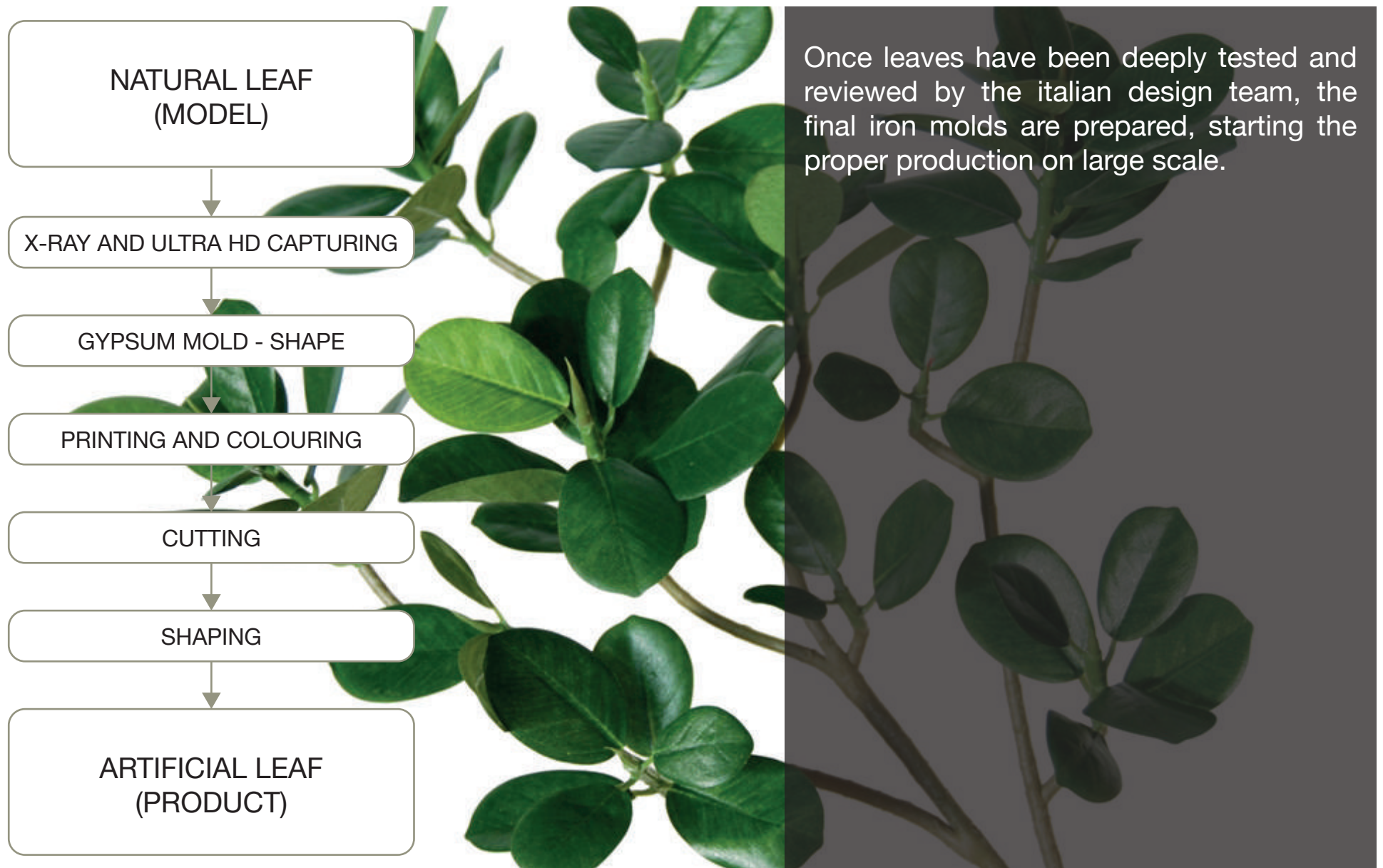
## SAMPLING



Once leaves are printed and cut in single pieces, they are heated and shaped with another mold, getting the right corrugation, going from flat leaves to tridimensional, nature-alike ones.

This crucial process is completely hand-made, done leaf by leaf by skilled professionals.

## PRODUCTION

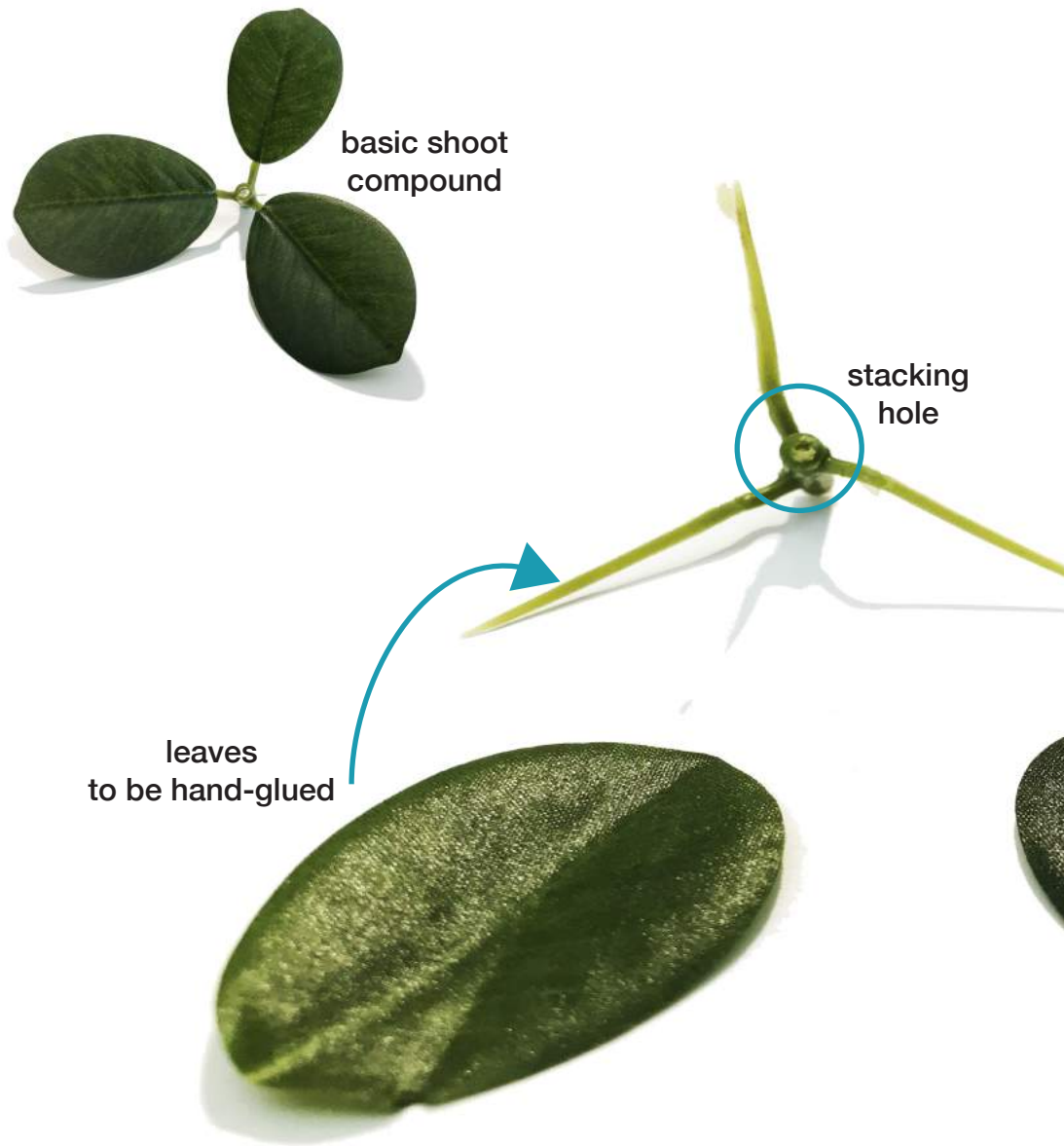






**ASSEMBLY**

## FROM SINGLE LEAVES TO SHOOTS



Each foliage line has a proper branch or shoot arrangement style, according to its natural counterpart.

Fixing and spatial arrangement of leaves in shoots are carefully engineered, in order to get the perfect balance between technical manufacturing and natural look.

Hence, single leaves are grouped and mounted together by hand, in order to build the primary compounds of ila plants' canopy.

Each foliage line has more than a single standard shoot/branch type, in order to improve the randomness of leaves arrangement on plants.

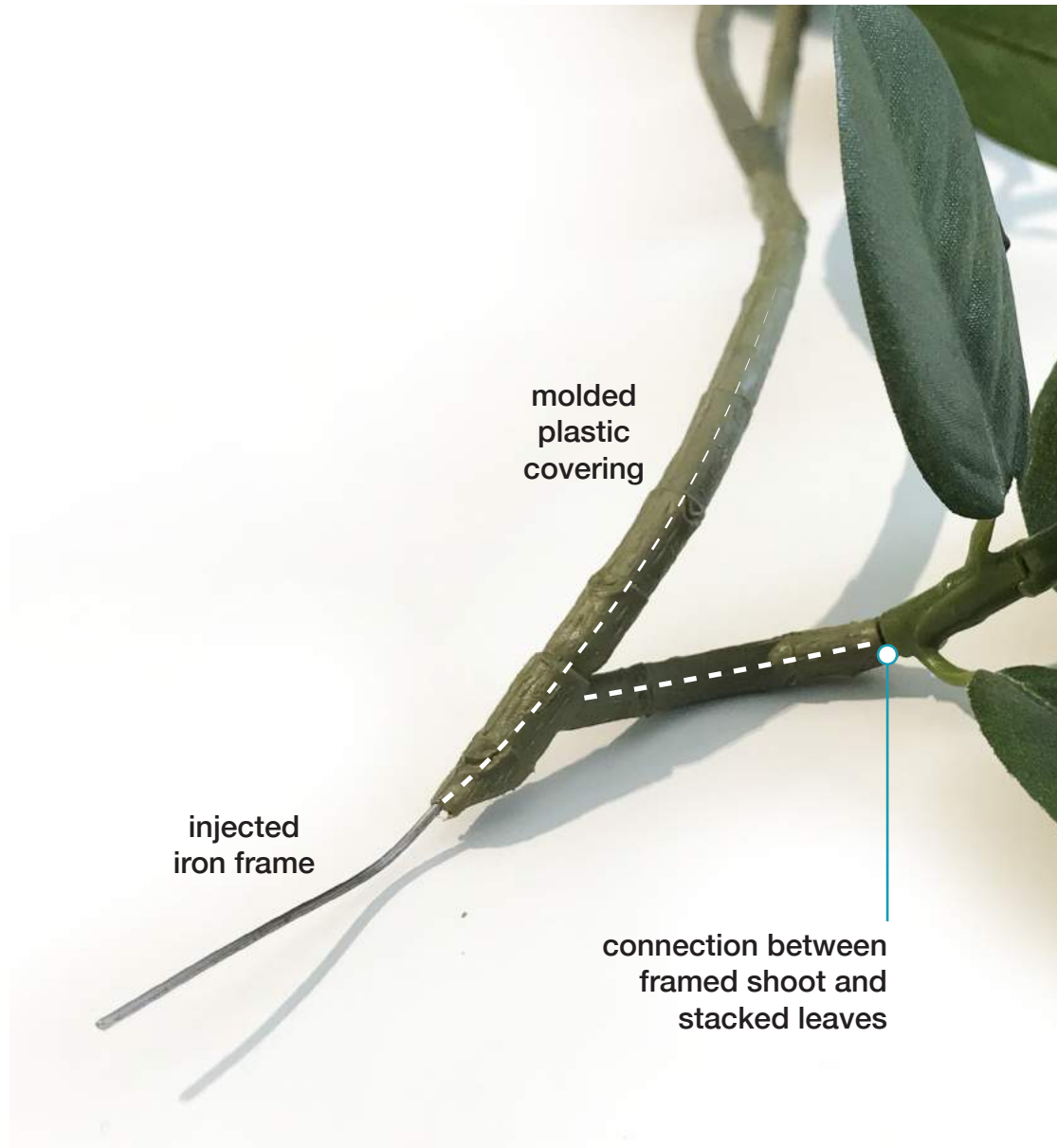
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## FROM SINGLE LEAVES TO SHOOTS

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## SHAPING



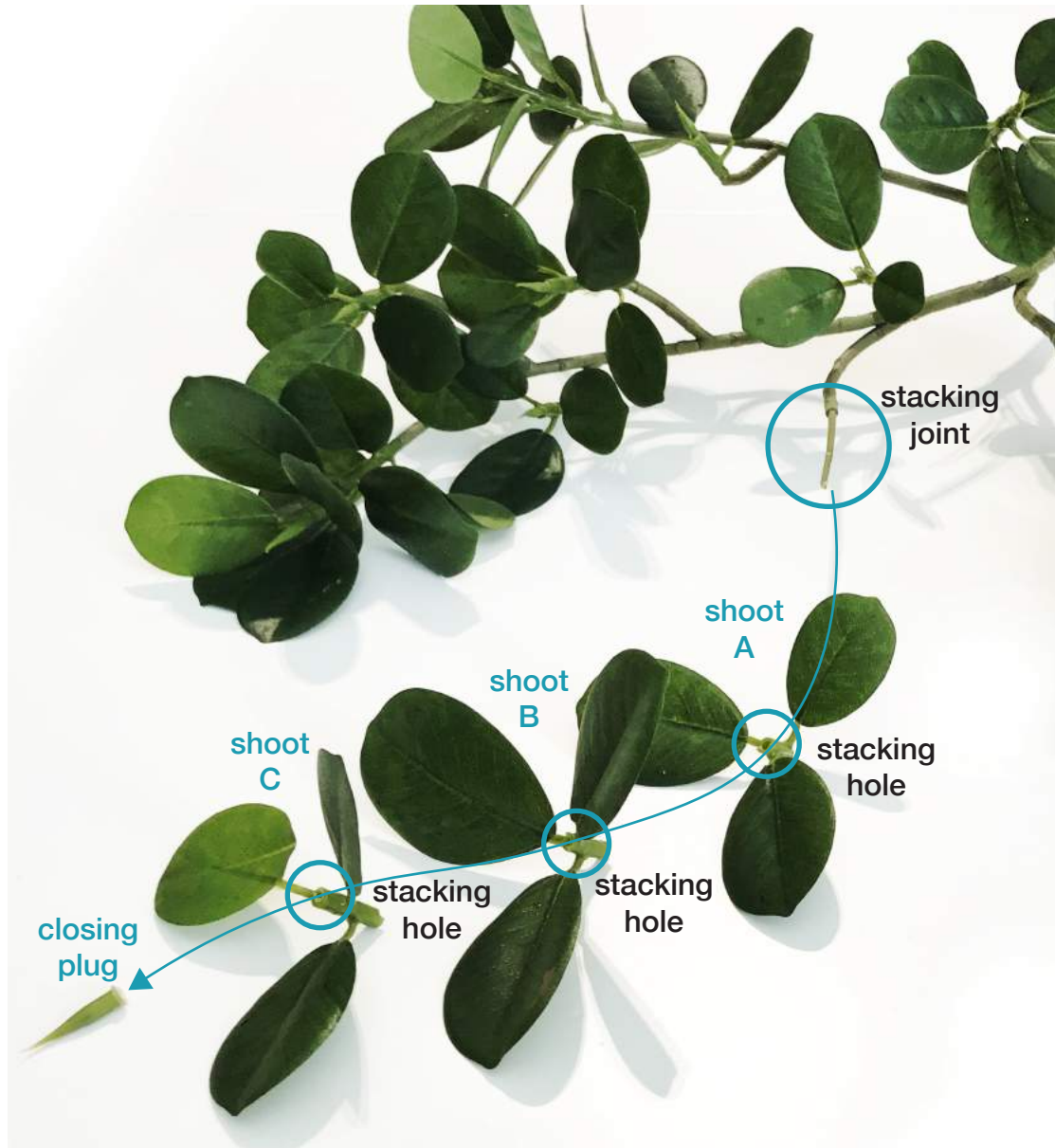
Ila shoots are deeply natural-alike, not only in shape and colour, but also in physical behavior.

They flex and bend along with gravity and air movement, but they come back to their shape and keep it over time.

They are easy to shape and arrange as well during installation.

The secret is the perfect balance between the thickness and length of the internal iron frame, and of the plastic covering, as a result of an extremely accurate research and development process in years.

## SHAPING



As seen for the leaves molding process, Ila creates molds for shoots and branches as well.

They often are conceived as a tridimensional plastic support for leaves, connected together by properly designed fixing compounds.

Each shoot has a primary flat or vertical structure, and one or more sub-horizontal joints, in order to create a fully tridimensional effect.

The entire plastic molded structure is injected with iron, in order to obtain a strong, yet shapeable compound.

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## SHAPING

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Natural Ficus "Panda" (*F. retusa*)



Seminatural Ficus Panda by Ila



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