



Dedon reinterprets the base camps of early explorers in its *City Camp* collection.

id DESIGN EVENT

Nakkash Gallery and **id** plan to reveal the new Dedon 2012 collection at an inspirational design evening in Dubai next month. Details of the design event will be published in the April issue of **id**.

THRILLING POSSIBILITIES

Not too long ago the options for outdoor residential spaces were hindered by an extremely limited array of furnishings, which often lagged far behind the innovations and directions being taken inside the home. The distinction between the two areas has now been completely erased and today on point outdoor products move in step with what is happening indoors. The sophistication and refinement of outdoor furnishings have made impressive strides and the top manufacturers now often present their outdoor collections in indoor scenarios.

For instance, when Barcelona-based Kettal chose to showcase its greatly expanded *Bitta* outdoor furniture collection designed by Italian architect and designer Rodolfo Dordoni, it did so by presenting its seating elements inside. Its combination of braided cord seats topped by comfortable cushions took a familiar outdoor vernacular and recast it for contemporary use both for outside spaces and the living room. The expanded range includes everything from a modular sofa system, club chairs and stools to roomy daybeds, deckchairs, and swings.

"My aim was to create dense braiding that would still let the air through," says Dordoni, who has also created collections for other top European furniture players such as Artemide, Cappellini, Cassina, Minotti and Flo. "The pieces look lightweight but, at the same time, they look just like cosy nests."

It isn't a stretch either to envision the in-out *Oskar* collection from Sifas, a company founded on the French Riviera in 1937, in the interior. The product of the mind of French designer Éric Carrère, he has reinvented the classic, folding American director's chair and adds a touch of luxury to the collection by introducing padding to its chairs, chaises and love seats.

The expanded *Haven* series, designed by Claesson, Koivisto, and Rune for Paola Lenti, and Tribu's *Natal Alu* both make the transition from inside to out without interruption. *Haven*, launched in 2009, has evolved to include armchairs, a two-seater sofa with a high backrest and sun bed, all of which feature an elastic fabric slung on a still visible, steel structure. The strong



Clockwise from top left: Paola Lenti's adjustable-height *Giro* table is paired with the upholstered *Frame*; Sifas' *Oskar* takes its cues from the classic director's chair; *Bitta*, from Kettal, is expanded upon in 2012.

geometries of the seating are softened by the sheerness of the fabric and generous cushions and pillows. *Natal Alu*, with its elegant lines in aluminum and generous cushions, now available in genuine outdoor leather, makes it equally appropriate for both living rooms and backyards.

Still, outdoor furnishings, which now hold their own against interior pieces, bring more than boundary shifting to the table. As the polish and complexity of the products continue to improve, so too do the range of exterior design possibilities and applications.

"The outdoor design revolution is not just about cool chairs and sofas," says Anne Robert, founder of British consultancy the Outdoor Stylist. "It is not a new outdoor room in the limited sense. It is about using outdoor spaces as multi-purpose and multi-targeted outdoor spaces. One single area needs to be a kitchen, a wet space, a playroom, a lounge, a dining area, a gym, a work place etc... Parents, kids, teens, grandparents need to use the space."

FLIGHTS OF FANCY

In the field of interior design, the guiding principals for the past few seasons have focused on reconnecting to natural world, adding the spice of individuality to a space and carving out more private spheres within the larger context. Those considerations are present in the outdoors, too, and the mood these days is definitely about freedom of expression.

So while concerns of privacy and tapping into rustic elements remain constant, injecting the backyard with hyper-individualisation will move front and centre in the coming months. Though many collections are again leaning toward an understated simplicity and clean, linear shapes, many with a nod towards Scandinavian and Nordic design, there are plenty of introductions designed to make a splash.

