

a soft touch and appearance. A subdued palette does not attempt to compete but harmonizes with nature.

Urban Sophistication

We're spending more time outdoors and often in an urban setting. Consequently, several companies are responding with ranges more likely to appeal to city slickers, thanks to space-saving frames and sleek lines. Emu's Yard range, designed by Stefan Diez, is a good example, with its sophisticated aluminium frame, woven elastic straps and upbeat colours: think scarlet red and mint green. Says Emu's Bettina Pudwell: 'The way the straps are inserted into the frame rather than being wrapped around it gives the collection a more refined silhouette and a sleeker, lighter look', which is what today's market wants. She adds that 'comfort and durability are of the utmost importance to customers, and technology has made both qualities easier to achieve'.

CEO Marco Serralunga calls Serralunga's products 'urban decoration'. The company's elegant Floret lamp, an ode to the classical urn, is both focal point and light source. 'It can be considered a piece of art available at an accessible and democratic price,' he says. Floret is a rotomoulded object that adapts well to outdoor life. 'For us, outdoor products are not only decorative but also practical - so practical that they need next to no maintenance.'

Lightweight and Multifunctional

Among Cane-line's urban-trendy products are the Copenhagen range, the Area table and the Less chair, a light, stylish piece that reflects the design adage 'less is more'. Available in white or graphite grey, its seat and backrest are made from delicately perforated aluminium that lets rain run



Diemmebi adds a colourful flair to the park bench with the curvaceous Zeroquindici.015 series of tubular stainless-steel seats.



The Knit dining chair by Ethimo has a teak frame and a seat of synthetic woven rope - a comfy choice for time spent outdoors.



An addition to Moroso's M'Afrique collection is garden lounger Shadowy, which provides refuge from the sun, thanks to a curved backrest that doubles as a canopy.