

# dwell

At Home in the Modern World

Smaller in Texas  
Don't Call These Pint-Size  
Marfa Houses Tiny

Patio Heroes  
New Varietals of Classic  
Outdoor Furniture

## Putting Down Roots

GARDENING TIPS  
AND UNTAMED SPACES

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# Modern World



## outdoor icons

If you follow furniture fashion, you've noticed that many new outdoor collections look like they belong in the living room rather than on the lawn. The pieces can be comfortable, but the trend has left us longing for the familiar forms and easygoing attitude of patio classics. We chose our favorite five and asked experts **Aric Chen**, the general and artistic director at Het Nieuwe Instituut in the Netherlands, and **Emily Orr**, the associate curator and acting head of product design and decorative arts at Cooper Hewitt in New York City, to tell us how these archetypes took over lawns, decks, and stoops across the globe. Then we gathered a group of contemporary chairs—most recently released or available in new colors—that riff on the qualities we love about the originals.

◀  
**Medici Outdoor MC4**  
By Konstantin Grcic  
**Mattiazzi**

EDITED BY  
**Meredith Mendelsohn**

SELECTIONS BY  
**Gabrielle Golenda**

TEXTS BY  
**Audrey Wachs**

Palmetto Adirondack  
Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams



Lollygagger Swing  
Loll Designs



Modern Adirondack  
Polywood

# Adirondack

An antidote to the fussy Victorian furniture of the 19th century, the Adirondack was first conceived by wealthy homeowner Thomas Lee, who was seeking sturdy outdoor seating for his vacation getaway in the Adirondack Mountains of upstate New York. In the early 1900s, a friend of Lee's, carpenter Harry Bunnell, retooled the original's whole wood planks with cheaper wood slats and patented the design. The model that we know today remains instantly recognizable for its angled seat set deep between generous armrests. While Adirondacks seem equally at home on the sun decks of ski resorts and the porches of quaint cabins, it's hard to imagine them out of a woody context. That said, there are dozens of variations today, the best of which stylishly streamline the bulky original construction—and some that might even fit on a city balcony.

Between Lines Deck Chair  
Skagerak



Medici Outdoor MC4  
By Konstantin Grcic  
Mattiazzi



Roger  
Atra Form



Woodside Adirondack  
Terra Outdoor



“There are some crazy images of Victorian people putting their parlor furniture on the front lawn. This chair was different for its time because it was actually made for use outdoors, from local materials that reflect natural surroundings. It's really part of a larger design story with the cabin and the country in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, when people were fleeing cities and an escape to the mountains was seen as curative. Some chairs in this rustic style were made from branches, but the proper Adirondack was more manicured, with its smoothed, cut boards assembled in a geometric composition.” —Emily Orr



▶ Piana  
By David Chipperfield  
Alessi

▶ Armchair  
Dengô

▲ Classic Lawn Chair  
MoMA Design Store

# LAWN CHAIR

Don't be fooled by the simplicity of the folding lawn chair. This mainstay of tailgates is also one of the most enduring symbols of American postwar identity. Popularized as the country moved from wartime to leisure time, the cheery plastic-and-metal chair emerged as an indispensable recreational accessory when an increasing number of Americans were entering the middle class, buying homes, and taking road trips. The MoMA Design Store in New York has helped secure the classic lawn chair's legacy, but the seat does, in fact, have precedents in high modernism, including Marcel Breuer's elegant Tecta D4—with aluminum tubing and all—from 1926.



▶ Fifty  
By Dögg & Arnved  
Design Studio  
Ligne Roset

◀ Trip  
By José A. Gandía-Blasco  
and Borja García  
Diabla

▲ D4  
By Marcel Breuer  
Tecta

“I grew up in Chicago, so there are a lot of wonderful midwestern vignettes where these chairs play a prominent role in my mind. I have an image of people pulling folded ones out of the trunks of their cars at the beach or Fourth of July barbecues, carrying a 7-Eleven Big Gulp in one hand. They represent that archetypal, postwar suburban lifestyle, and that makes them icons of Americana.” —Aric Chen



▲ Opla Outdoor Chair  
Grand Rapids Chair



▲ Seam Dining Chair  
By Adam Cornish  
Tait



Bistro  
Fermob  
▼

# bistro

PHOTO: FABRICE GOUSSET (MAISON DRUCKER)

The emergence of cafe culture in 19th-century Europe necessitated a new kind of seat. So the manufacturer Thonet pioneered a factory-made, lightweight bentwood chair. As people-watching and pastis-sipping moved increasingly outdoors, more sturdy options ensued, like the steel-slatted folding bistro chair. Those durable yet dainty designs, most famously produced by Fermob, now dot sidewalks and parks around the world. Though stylish, they're not exactly engineered for lounging. But for a quick croissant, the chairs and their contemporary interpretations get the job done with panache.

“This chair strikes me as something that’s very temporary. You have a quick coffee, a chat with a friend. You probably don’t want to sit on that chair for hours. It’s ready for quick and multiple uses. And it’s something that can be easily wiped off and used by the next person.” —EO



◀ Ringer  
By Michael Anastassiades  
Kettal



◀ Bistro  
By Dirk Wynants  
Extremis



▲ Corso  
By Robert Stadler  
Maison Drucker



◀ **Bell**  
By Konstantin Grcic  
**Magis**



◀ **Roly Poly**  
By Faye Toogood  
**Driade**



▶ **Unique Mono-Block Resin Chair**  
Sam Durant

CROPPED VIEW OF BLUE, UNIQUE MONO-BLOCK RESIN CHAIR. BUILT AT JIAO ZHI STUDIO, XIAMEN, CHINA. PRODUCED BY YE XING YOU AND DU WEI DONG WITH CRAFTSPERSONS XU LIANG JIAN AND XU ZHI HONG. KANG YOUTENG, PROJECT MANAGER AND LIAISON. 2006 GLAZED PORCELAIN. 31½" X 21" X 19½". © SAM DURANT. COURTESY PAULA COOPER GALLERY, NEW YORK. PHOTO: JOSHUA WHITE (UNIQUE MONO-BLOCK RESIN CHAIR)

# monobloc

A global furniture blight if there ever were one, white plastic Monobloc chairs are ubiquitous for good reason: They're waterproof, stackable, and easy to clean. And because each one is made from a single piece of molded plastic, they're cheap to mass produce—which is also their fatal flaw for anyone concerned with bringing more PVC into the world. But Monoblocs have come a long way since they were first popularized in the 1980s. Today's updates speak far more to the chair's surprising modernist precedents, like the 1960s fiberglass Bofinger chair by German architect Helmut Bätzner. Design-forward firms are now producing Monoblocs in fetching colors and ergonomic shapes, and some are using recycled plastic. Artist Sam Durant went so far as to create ironic porcelain versions, which make cheeky garden sculptures. These aren't the plastic chairs to hide in a corner.



◀ **Spritz Lounge Chair**  
By Archirivolto Design  
**Vondom**



◀ **Decade**  
**Blu Dot**

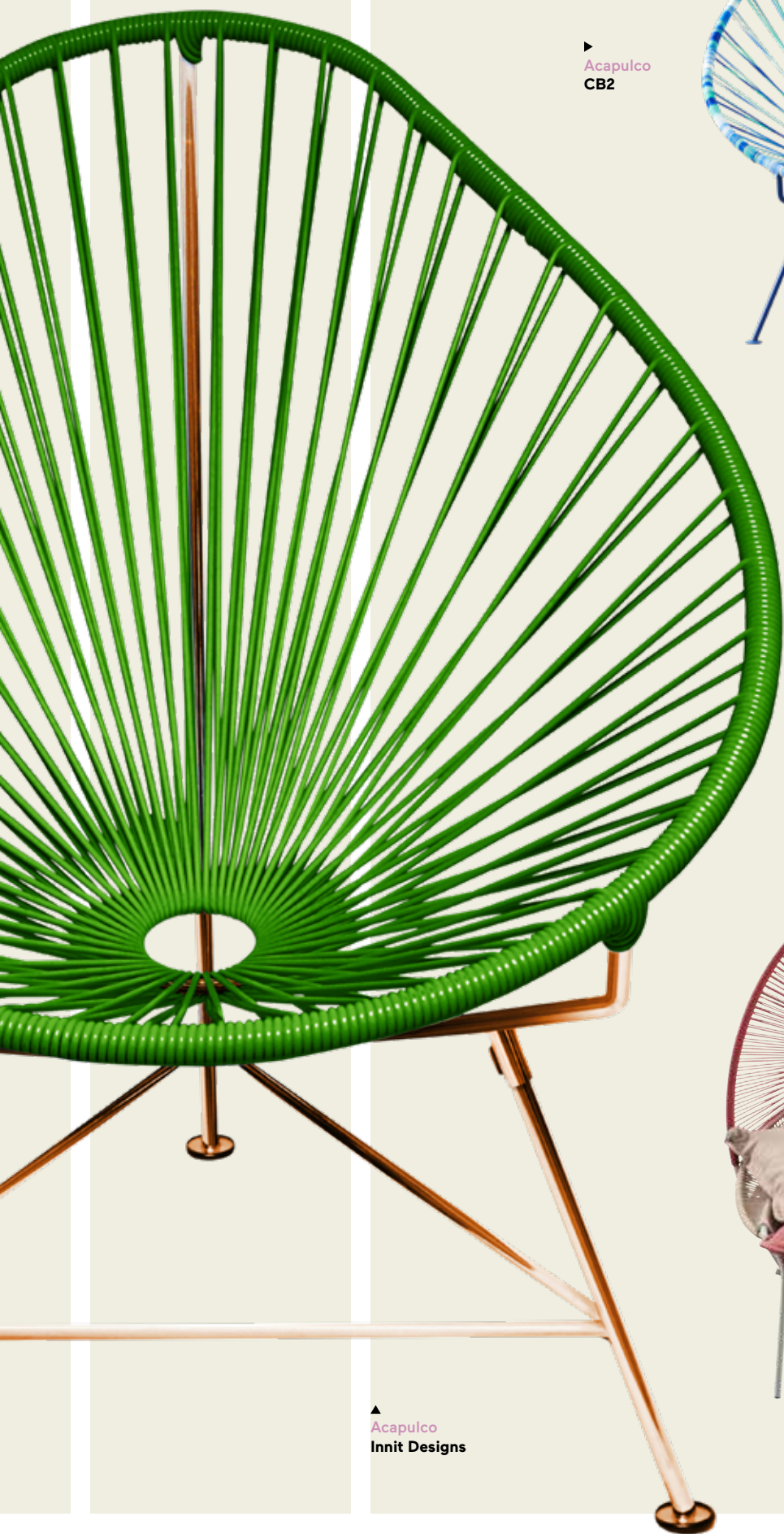


▶ **Trill Armchair**  
By Raffaello Galiotto  
**Nardi**

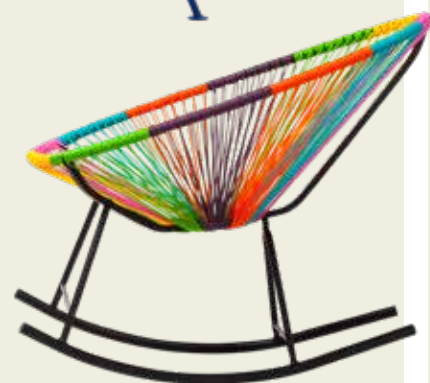


▶ **Ermis**  
**The New Raw**

“When I picture the white plastic chair, I see it discarded or empty, maybe left behind after someone's moved or at a community center in the corner with a bunch of others after an event. But other molded, single-plastic chairs can be really elegant. The slats in the white plastic Monoblocs are there to relieve the tension in the material so it can stand, but it ruins the glossy, sleek curves that can be achieved with a more sophisticated manufacturing technique.” —EO



▶ Acapulco  
CB2



▲ Acapulco Rocking Chair  
The Khazana



▲ Traveler Outdoor  
Armchair with Hood  
By Stephen Burks  
Roche Bobois

▲ Acapulco  
Innit Designs

# ACAPULCO

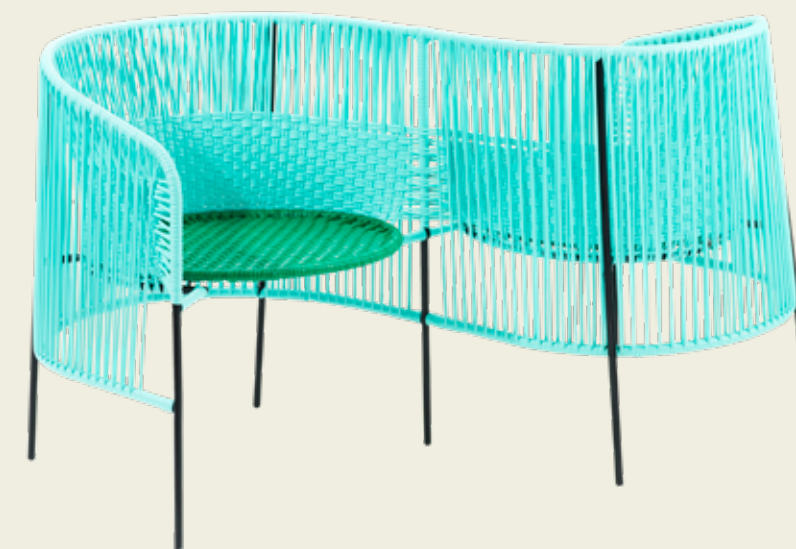
Named for the Mexican beach town made famous by mid-century glitterati, the Acapulco is one of the more decorative outdoor standards today. It mixes the breezy glamour of Pacific Coast modernism with a good dose of festive decadence. The chair was allegedly conceived in the 1950s by a vacationing Frenchman seeking a seat that would keep him cool, and it usually consists of rope or vinyl cords woven around a teardrop or oval frame in a style that borrows from traditional Mexican craftsmanship. While affordable Acapulco chairs abound, some splurge-worthy versions feature more elaborately woven designs and luxe materials. A word of warning: The more seductive, deeper models can also be more difficult to leave—especially after a few margaritas.



◀ Mexa Classics Acapulco  
Lounge Chair  
Mexa



▶ Mozambique  
Basket Chair  
House of Nomad



◀ Caribe Vis a Vis Bench  
By Sebastian Herkner  
Ames

“In my mind’s eye this chair represents nothing but urban chic. It’s an oddly ubiquitous design in the Netherlands, where I live, even though we’re not known for our tropical, sunny weather. Maybe it’s wishful thinking that makes it so popular. But it is comfortable. Once you sink in, it hugs your body and forces you into a relaxed pose. Also, the air can circulate around it, so rain doesn’t collect on the seat. I have a version in white on my terrace, and even though I’m not a color person, I got a shiny yellow table to go next to it. It’s just like being on the beach.” —AC