

hospitality design

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global watch



Presenter of

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By Ashleigh VanHouten
Photography courtesy of Extremis



1. On the rooftop terrace of the MAS museum in Antwerp, Wynants' Hopper table offers a shaded perch.

2. The Marina picnic table is a simple and functional design that can be specified up to 300 feet long.



LIFE'S A PICNIC

Fun, functional designs

Belgian designer Dirk Wynants is adamant that he doesn't have, or aim to achieve, a particular look with his furniture pieces: "My signature is not recognizable from the aesthetic side, as this is never my starting point. Good design, in my opinion, should answer to a lot of other things: innovation with a reason for existence, human-centered functionality, ecology, economy, and durability in all its meanings."

Wynants, based in West Flanders, studied interior architecture and furniture design at Sint-Lucas School of Architecture in Ghent, and today, as founder of Extremis, his functional pieces appear in more than 80 countries in such high-profile projects as the Biergarten at the Standard hotel in New

York and the entrance of its sister hotel in Miami; Yotel in New York; W South Beach; and the Tate Modern art gallery in London.

One of his most memorable projects: the Standard New York, where his vibrant yellow picnic tables guide guests to the hotel's entrance. "There is no other project I received so many pictures of afterwards, and so many people have discovered our stuff there," Wynants says.

On the horizon is a digital piano for hotel lobbies called S.A.M.; the prototype is done and he's looking for a producer. This uniquely modern piece has "the most important functionality of the classic grand piano: to bring people together around it." And despite design being, as he says, "a

complex process," his newest product, the outdoor Marina picnic table, is a show of simplicity. Developed in collaboration with Bruno Fattorini & Partners, it boasts a clean design that can be created in virtually any size—even up to 300 feet.

The idea that designers live and breathe their work is no more apparent than with Wynants. He says his favorite hospitality space is "my own house. We have four guestrooms, a huge kitchen as the center, lots of outdoor space, and terraces. I've made it my own hotel." **hd**

extremis.be

products **textiles**

By Ashleigh VanHouten



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1 Mitchell Faux Leathers' Sta-Kleen product, the industry's first truly erasable urethane upholstery, has built-in fabric protection from stains as well as mold and mildew. MITCHELLFAUXLEATHERS.COM

2 The ROCKSTAR International Specifier collection from Valley Forge Fabrics boasts a unique combination of various yarn size and types, and high luster and non-reflective fiber twists to give these fabrics their high-end look. VALLEYFORGE.COM

3 Garrett Leather has added five new earth tones to its Mystique collection. Each full-grain hide is hand-tipped by Italian artisans, a process which entails hand rubbing a darker color onto the "tips" of the grain of a lighter tone base. GARRETTLEATHER.COM

4 Alaxi Fabrics introduces the Road to Marrakech, a lush collection of Moroccan-themed patterns. Seen here, from top: Sultan, Casablanca, and Ebongold. ALAXIFABRICS.COM

5 Safari from JANUS et Cie is a geometric twist on animal print and is available in five colors, including Marine, shown here. Made from 100 percent solution-dyed acrylic, Safari is suitable for interior and exterior use. JANUSETCIE.COM