



New designs from Cult Furniture

Sitting pretty

WITH NEW COPYRIGHT RULES SET TO SHAKE UP FURNITURE DESIGN, MARK LUDMON LOOKS AT THE LATEST TRENDS



Clermont from Daro

A major change in copyright law is about to have an impact on some of the most popular styles in bar interiors. From April this year, the copyright on furniture design is being extended from 25 to 70 years under legislation that was originally due to come into force in 2020. So, in 2016, it means that manufacturers and suppliers will have to stop making and selling any replicas of furniture designed since 1946 – a blow to the ongoing trend for “mid-century” seating with iconic pieces such as the classic Eames chair.

Not only does this change threaten furniture companies, it will affect customers in the long run too, points out Fiaz Iqbal, CEO of Cult Furniture, which supplies contemporary furniture in the hospitality sector. “It’s a sad time for design lovers everywhere. By abiding by the wishes of the furniture giants to hand over the designs that were initially meant to be affordable, functional and beautiful for everyone, we’re

losing more than just a legal battle. We'll be completely out of touch with the visions of those designers before us."

Fiaz, who previously ran bars in London, believes it is unlikely that the change in copyright law will increase the sales of originals. "Very few people will be able to afford these overpriced originals. This doesn't just affect the everyday consumer – you will also see a lot of the iconic designs fade away from the high street as bars and restaurants will not be able to afford to pay more than £400 for a dining chair."

After learning about the law change in 2014, Fiaz put together his own in-house product design team to create Cult Designs: furniture inspired by iconic designs but with contemporary twists in the brand's style to replace its best-selling iconic designs. They were originally scheduled to debut in 2017 but the new deadline means they are being brought forward. "We firmly believe that everyone should have access to good design," Fiaz adds. "When they want to buy reproductions, this is their choice. We hope to provide an alternative, to keep the vision of Ray and Charles Eames alive: that good design should be affordable and for everyone, not just the rich and famous."

The change in copyright law means

designers are now embarking on more elaborate designs without worrying that they will be copied, according to James Brown, director of Daro, a specialist in cane and rattan furniture. "We enjoy pushing the boundaries and we welcome the changes to the copyright law as it boosts our confidence that our design can't be compromised."

Using high-quality polyethylene UV and water-resistant materials, Daro creates versatile outdoor furniture that is extremely durable while still being comfortable and stylish. A specialist in supplying bars, pubs and restaurants, it is currently designing outdoor coffee tables that easily adapt to become dining tables. "It is a very

interesting time in the design of outdoor furniture," James adds. "As materials and fabrics improve, it gives us much more flexibility and free rein to let our imaginations flow freely when it comes to designing new ranges."

Another trend in the design of outdoor furniture is colour, he points out. "No longer are designers tied to dull brown weaves - they now have access to bold colours such as those used in the Daro Clermont range." Matching vibrant fabrics also enhance the overall look, he adds. "As outdoor fabrics are improving, they offer a more comfortable sit coupled with advances in maintaining the necessary commercial fire regulations."

HOTEL DU VIN

For the past two years, Hotel du Vin has been working with furniture specialist Bridgman for fitting out its outdoor spaces after their first successful project at its Brighton hotel in 2014. To meet the requirements of a brief, the Bridgman team undertake a full site visit so the order is tailored to suit the day-to-day operation of the hotel and restaurant. Bridgman's All Season's Pure Collection has now been rolled out across 18 of their properties including Winchester in Hampshire (pictured).

Simon Bardsley, director of procurement for Hotel du Vin, says: "The positive feedback from our guests on the furniture from Bridgman has been overwhelming. Their unique range offers comfort, style and outstanding quality which we are proud to be associated with."





Bolero from Nisbets

GO IN's new ES1500 weather-resistant chair offers splashes of colour for outside space although it can also be used indoors. Its feet are made of anodised aluminium and the seat shell is polypropylene, which is available in four colours: beige, light green, red and black. At a lightweight 3.1kg, the ES1500 is easy to move around and stackable.

The latest new design from leading hospitality specialist Andy Thornton is Nolita, an outdoor collection from Italian furniture designers Pedrali, with a simple, iconic style suited to bars and restaurants. Made entirely from powder-coated steel, Nolita is lightweight yet strong and durable. Designed specifically for outdoor use, it is UV resistant and available in a choice of three fresh colours: green, red and white. There is a choice of side chair and armchair, both stackable for ease of storage, and a bar stool with a backrest.

More than ever, consumers are gravitating towards bars and restaurants that offer cool, curated outdoor spaces, notes Robert Bridgman, director of



NUMBER ONE AT THE BALMORAL

Diners at the newly refurbished Michelin-starred Number One restaurant in The Balmoral hotel in Edinburgh can relax in opulence and comfort thanks to Lyndon Design's handcrafted seating. Specified by the in-house design team at hotel owner Rocco Forte, the classic two-seater Albany sofas bring a soft and intimate feel to the venue.

They boast a hardwood internal frame with a fixed CMHR foam seat and back for added comfort, fitted with a striking fabric that complements the restaurant's red-lacquered walls. They also feature distinctive gold-coloured back buttons in leather together with luxurious gold-coloured leather arms and border detail and handcrafted solid oak legs finished with a clear lacquer.

Tim Young, interior designer at Rocco Forte, says: "The Albany sofas not only perfectly complement the bespoke banquet seating and formal dining chairs also featured within Number One, they reflect the elegance and history of this revered establishment."

furniture specialist Bridgman. "Furniture for commercial outdoor spaces can't just look good, it needs to be hardy and versatile too," he adds. "From weatherproof rattan that can be left outside all year round to waterproof and stain-proof cushions, investing in furniture that can withstand wear, tear and spills will pay dividends for years to come."

With modern style-led rattan pieces becoming increasingly popular, Bridgman

has introduced the All Seasons Stone range, a contemporary collection that showcases clean lines, deep seats and tapered legs, along with a synthetic "wood-look" table top. "Low-level dining is also a popular concept, giving customers the option to lounge whilst enjoying alfresco food and drink and allowing businesses to flex the function of their space according to demand. Our All Seasons Stone and Walnut collections are great examples of this."

While trends come and go, classic, iconic designs will remain in vogue indefinitely, says Heather Beattie, brand manager for the Bolero furniture range from Nisbets. “For the ultimate modern look and feel, the new Bolero PP Armchairs are ideal. A stylish and hardwearing option for bar operators looking for furniture that can be used both in and outdoors, these stackable polypropylene armchairs are as comfortable as they are trendy.” They are

easy to maintain and wipe clean, available in three colours: coffee, black or red.

There has been a return to classic shapes for furniture for bars and restaurants, points out Shaun Clarkson, the renowned designer whose practice Shaun Clarkson ID has worked on many high-profile hospitality projects. This movement away from “novelty” shaped furniture reflects these times of austerity, he suggests. “But at Shaun Clarkson ID, we turn this on its



NATURE AND CITY MEET AT EAT17

For the latest site for restaurant and bar Eat17 in Walthamstow Village in north London, designer Natasha Hawtrey Woore took inspiration from the locality for a mix of natural and urban. For example, the lights in the bar are an engineered take on branches while the copper bar has a natural patina rather than a polished finish as if it had been exposed to the elements.

For furniture, they worked with hospitality specialist UHS Group, sourcing its Ranch bar stools. “We were looking for a stool with a sense of natural simplicity while being very comfortable,” Natasha explains. “The Ranch stool meets both criteria and is also shallow enough not to take up too much space. Compared to other upholstered stools, it is also relatively lightweight and we specified a twist mechanism so people can twist towards each other when drinking and dining together.” They specified a bespoke leather to tie in with the upholstery in the rest of the bar and the restaurant.



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LANDSCAPE
181 MM X 128 MM



Pedrali's Nolita from Andy Thornton

head a little bit by using classic shapes and source vintage furniture upholstered with unexpected fabrics.”

Alongside retail business Pitfield, Shaun has been designing bars and restaurants for over 20 years, with a reputation for often avant-garde and extravagant interiors. Last year, he worked on stunning cocktail bar The Chelsea Drugstore which opened in Dublin in November, with cosy sofas, armchairs and booths in an interior that



ES1500 from GO IN

is classical without being dated. Shaun believes that both mid-century and industrial styles have had their day and is trying to guide his clients away from them. “Be wary of the deconstructed look that is currently everywhere,” he adds. “Even Starbucks does distressed wood these days.”

He adds: “Setting a limited budget doesn't mean you can't be creative and inventive but don't underestimate the value of design and designers. It sounds obvious

to say but comfortable furniture and clever lighting and intelligent use of colour is an intrinsic part to your operation.” While the change to the Copyright, Designs & Patents Act will impact bars, he believes it will be a positive move for interior design. “As a designer it's not necessarily a bad thing as we need to be more protected by copyright, and it will force us to be a little bit more inventive rather than regurgitating what our predecessors have designed.”



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