

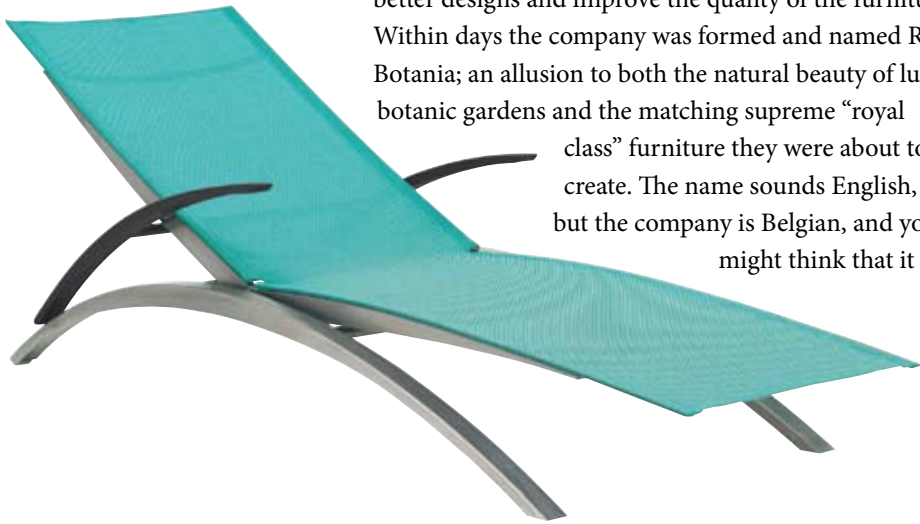


# INSIDE OUTSIDE

The highly covetable outdoor furniture produced by Kris Van Puyvelde and Frank Boschman of Royal Botania turns gardens, courtyards, terraces and verandahs into all-weather outdoor rooms. Photography: Royal Botania

**K**ris Van Puyvelde and Frank Boschman first met at university in Antwerp, Belgium, while studying to become engineers. Many years later, in 1992, they met up again, each wanting to start their own business. It was the era of teak-wood garden furniture shipped in from Indonesia, and they thought about starting with that but quickly discovered that the products were not quite the right quality, and that they were manufactured only in traditional colonial styles.

Undeterred, they decided that they could create better designs and improve the quality of the furniture. Within days the company was formed and named Royal Botania; an allusion to both the natural beauty of lush botanic gardens and the matching supreme “royal class” furniture they were about to create. The name sounds English, but the company is Belgian, and you might think that it sells



porcelain dinnerware or high-grade floral prints – but it couldn't be less like that. Its image is sleek and very contemporary.

Kris van Puyvelde and Frank Boschman are still the most important designers at Royal Botania, but they have since been joined by Erik Nyberg, Gustav Strom, Pierre Stelmaszyk, and Olivier Le Pensec.

Now Royal Botania has been nominated for Germany's 2011 Design Award. Its signature piece, called 'The Wave', has won USA magazine Interior Design's Best of Year Award for outdoor furniture, after an intense online voting process, which garnered nearly 30,000 votes from architects and designers. A jury of design professionals then selected the winner in each category. The Wave also received five design nominations at Maison & Objet in Paris last year. Unlike any other piece of its kind, it is neither a hammock, nor a sun chair, nor a parasol. It is a stylised piece which combines functionality with beauty and elegance. >p91



«Refined aesthetics are achieved by blending precision and functionality with high quality materials. This is achieved by focusing on each step of the process from the design creation, production, distribution and after-sales service.»



»The Wave was designed by Erik Nyberg and Gustav Ström, and is made of electro-polished stainless steel and mesh. The canopy and seat sling are made from a material called batyline. The fabric is semi-transparent while at the same time offering protection by blocking 86 per cent of the sun's rays. It looks as though it is floating and can rotate 90° around the base, so that you can shift away from or towards the sun without effort. »p92





THE WAVE

«Royal Botania fast became internationally synonymous with luxurious quality and design, gaining recognition from some of the best names in the field of interior design.»

>Initially, Royal Botania focussed on fusing superb quality with refreshing designs made out of teak wood. The brand fast became internationally synonymous with luxurious quality and design, gaining recognition from some of the best names in the field of interior design.

This success encouraged the creation of new collections of outdoor furniture, as well as the launch of outdoor lighting and even of a range of bathroom furniture. More people were taken on to join the design team, and new materials were introduced into the range

- such as stainless steel, aluminium and synthetic fibres.

Eighteen years later, Royal Botania directly employs more than 800 people in Thailand, at a factory which it owns, all of them highly skilled craftsmen, and another 50 people at its head office in Antwerp. A warehouse of 100,000sqm stores the products for worldwide dispatch.

Refined aesthetics are achieved by blending precision and functionality with high quality materials. This is achieved by focusing on each step of the process from the design creation, production, distribution and after-sales service. No detail is overlooked. Perfection, as Leonardo da Vinci is believed to have said, is not a detail, but details make for perfection. >p95







KRIS VAN PUYVELDE AND FRANK BOSCHMAN FIRST MET AT UNIVERSITY IN ANTWERP, BELGIUM, WHILE STUDYING TO BECOME ENGINEERS.

>Royal Botania products are sold all over the world and used in all kinds of climates, from Caribbean pool-sides to cold winter bonfire nights. So each design and piece must be resistant to the heat of deserts as well as freezing winters and high UV ray exposure which is so destructive.

Royal Botania uses only selected mature wood in the manufacture of its teak collections. This is harvested in accordance with Royal Botania's environmental policy on sourcing wood only from dedicated plantations or using wood harvested in line with the World Wildlife Fund's 'Sustainable Forest' policy.

Royal Botania understands that nothing lasts forever, but it tries: its carefully crafted ranges can be passed from one generation to another. All metal and manmade materials used in the production are almost 100 per cent recyclable. Natural materials like wood

and stone can be exposed to the elements without fear of environmental decay. ■



*Royal Botania outdoor furniture is sold at Camilleri Paris Mode, Rabat*

*www.camilleriparismode.com  
www.royalbotania.com*