

GUBI

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The plastic editions of two of GUBI's most popular dining chairs, the Beetle and the Bat, have been reimagined for outdoor use. Reexamining their materials, aesthetics and function has led to the addition of an outdoor treatment, opening up new possibilities and making the chairs perfect for both indoor and outdoor use. Special additives in the molded polypropylene shell help to prevent the color from fading due to weather damage, making two already versatile chairs even more dynamic. Their light weight enables them to be easily moved, breaking down barriers between internal and external spaces.

Referencing the ingenious construction of insect shells, the Beetle Dining Chair has become one of GUBI's most iconic designs and a global success story within less than a decade. Its durable outer shell is a continuous, curvilinear form, reminiscent of the strong and graceful contours of the insect that inspired it. Despite its robustness, it is designed to gently flex in response to the body's micromovements, echoing the complex movements a beetle can make while keeping its parts rigid and defined. This intelligent flexibility provides unparalleled comfort in this typology, even after prolonged sitting periods.

Bat Dining Chair took its inspiration from nature too – its distinctive silhouette reflects the webbed wings of a bat. To bring that idea to life in three dimensions, the chair's oval circumference, when seen from above, has been deliberately designed as one continuous line – the front, arm and backrest form a graphic, unbroken loop. This harmony characterizes the form in a very particular way, meaning that the chair's organic shape and gentle curves embrace the user in generous comfort rivalled only by the Beetle Dining Chair.

Stine Gam and Enrico Fratesi of GamFratesi elaborate: *“Both the Beetle and the Bat Dining Chairs were inspired by nature, so we are delighted that they can now be used outdoors and return to their natural habitat. It has been humbling to watch them populate so many different spaces across the world, and this outdoor edition simply opens up more doors to them.”*

The new Outdoor Collection maintains the distinguishing elegant lines of the Beetle and Bat, now combined with the informality and lightness of the outdoors – where they can be closer to nature. The chair's base was developed to maintain these proportions while offering structural integrity. Its coupling mechanism with the shell is organic in form, and the way in which its conical leg design blends with the structure under the seat reflects a branching tree – a design detail that was inspired by nature but respects a minimal and geometric aesthetic. In this way, the chairs approach the outdoor space, while preserving the qualities and values of the indoor version.

“The Beetle and Bat Chairs are timeless and well-proportioned but, at the same time, each has a distinct design signature of its own. The outdoor editions of the Beetle and Bat Chairs mark an important move for GUBI into outdoor furniture. I look forward to seeing them filling the balconies, courtyards and outdoor spaces of Copenhagen – and the world,” says Jacob Gubi, Owner & Creative Director at GUBI.

The manufacturing process of both designs pushes thermo-plastic technology to its limits. The Beetle and Bat Dining Chairs' elegant single-curved outer shells now benefit from the addition of UV additive to the polypropylene formula from which they are injection molded. This strengthens the polypropylene molecules protecting against the exposure to UV radiation from sunlight that otherwise degrades plastics. Just like the indoor plastic edition, the Beetle and Bat Outdoor Collection is designed for disassembly and fully recyclable.

An tightly curated palette of two colors – New Beige and Alabaster White – for the shells and matching bases across both chairs enables them to fit perfectly into a variety of public and private contexts. The finishes have always been a fundamental part of the chairs, so an extensive study was conducted to develop the matt-satin texture, which offers a soft tactility.

An optional seat cushion upholstered in outdoor-appropriate fabric offers additional comfort. The cushion is same across both chairs, and can be used on indoor editions too, adding an element of informality as it can be exchanged between the Beetle and Bat, and between inside and out, without any rigid schemes or fixings. Both chairs are BIFMA-certified, making them robust enough for any occasion, whether at home, at work or in hospitality settings.

GUBI has worked with Danish-Italian design duo GamFratesi since the early days of their studio. With their own dual heritage, GamFratesi shares GUBI's ability to fuse seemingly opposing concepts – the classic and the contemporary, the intellectual and the eclectic, the understated and the expressive, the manufactured and the crafted. These dualities, as well as their constant desire to challenge the status quo while respecting what has gone before, are epitomized in the Beetle and Bat Chairs.

Product Information

IN STORES:

Mid-march 2021

RECOMMENDED RETAIL PRICES:

Bat Dining Chair – Outdoor Edition:

- 1,995 DKK (incl. VAT)
- 2,945 SEK (incl. VAT)
- 2,795 NOK (incl. VAT)
- 249 GBP (incl. VAT)
- 279 EUR (incl. VAT)
- 459 AUD (incl. VAT)
- 395 USD (excl. VAT)

Beetle Dining Chair – Outdoor Edition:

- 1,895 DKK (incl. VAT)
- 2,795 SEK (incl. VAT)
- 2,695 NOK (incl. VAT)
- 239 GBP (incl. VAT)
- 269 EUR (incl. VAT)
- 429 AUD (incl. VAT)
- 375 USD (excl. VAT)

DIMENSIONS:

Beetle Dining Chair – Outdoor Edition:

- Height: 87 cm / 34,25 inches
- Shell:
- Width 49 cm / 19,3 inches.
- Depth 55 cm / 21,65 inches
- Base:
- Width 56 cm / 22 inches.
- Depth 53 cm / 21,9 inches

Bat Dining Chair – Outdoor Edition:

- Height: 84 cm / 33 inches
- Shell:
- Width: 62 cm / 24,5 inches.
- Depth: 55 cm / 21,6 inches
- Base:
- Width: 56 cm / 22 inches.
- Depth: 53 cm / 21 inches

COLORWAYS:

- New Beige or Alabaster White shell with matching bases.

MATERIALS:

- Outer shell and base: High-density polypropylene with 4% UV additive
- Optional outdoor seat cushion: PU foam upholstered with anti-slip material with selected fabrics. (NB Can withstand in outdoor use but bringing pillows indoors when not in use is recommended.)

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