

AMERICAN BEAUTY

One of Dedon's beloved designers Richard Frinier shares his thoughts on good design and respecting the environment.

words **Joseph Lim** photos courtesy of **dedon**



What is your inspiration as a designer?

My work is often evolutionary and inspired by the culture of the client company. And, if it's not there, I look for what's missing.

Share with us what are the tenets of good outdoor furniture design?

For me the most inspirational design is authentic, relevant and memorable. It must complement and enhance the outdoor space where it will be used. Outdoor furniture is often seen from inside the home when looking beyond the threshold, so it is very important that the furniture is of good design and good quality to make interior and exterior design flow seamlessly.



Dedon 'Orbit'

What does the design language of the Tribeca say?

It took three years from concept to market for Tribeca. It is urban and chic like the place it was named after. It has a soft modern appeal yet it exudes warmth for its rich color and textures. We created it using Dedon fibers handwoven over hydro-formed aluminium frames. Hydro-forming is typically used in race car and performance bicycle design for its beauty and durability. This combination of artisan craftsmanship blended with the hi-tech hydro-formed frames gave us an extraordinary new way of designing outdoor furniture. The overall appearance and performance is dynamic, strong and unbelievably comfortable.

What do you have to say about respecting the environment?

We live in a time where people are becoming very aware of the environment. For me, it is important to respect our environment by paying attention to our individual footprint. Respecting the earth has a lot to do with respecting ourselves and each other. One of the reasons I enjoy my work with Dedon is because their proprietary fiber is long lasting and recyclable.



Dedon 'Tribeca' collection

Which is your favourite piece (the ones that you have designed) in the Dedon collection and why?

My most favorite design is always the one I am working on next. Each one has its own personality. And, like a family, it's hard to choose your favorite. But, if there was one that seems to bring a smile to everyone, it is the Dedon 'Orbit'.

If you were not a furniture designer, what would you be today?

I have been designing furniture and home furnishings professionally for more than 35 years. It's hard to imagine doing anything else!

What is your opinion about ergonomics versus aesthetics?

A truly great design means that it connects with people emotionally upon first sight. It must be comfortable when you sit or lie into the furniture. And, that you continue to experience a sense of discovery when you spend time in the furniture — always noticing the understated lines of a design, its overall form, its details. For my work with Dedon, I am very concerned with aesthetics, ergonomics and performance that ultimately define the appearance and function of all of our designs.