

Architect's Choice

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HOUSING CRISIS

Question Time considers alternative solutions to the housing crisis in London and across the UK

EXHIBITIONIST

The V&A Museum now boasts a stunning new quarter, designed by AL_A, engineered by ARUP

**SURFACE
MATERIALS
SHOW** 10-12 OCT 2017
NEC 1 BIRMINGHAM

OODHOUSE, UK Premiere at Surface & Materials Show

BE SEEN OUTDOORS

MARK GABBERTAS EXPLORES THE NECESSITY OF STRONG RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN PRODUCT DESIGNER AND ARCHITECT, IN CREATING OUTDOOR LANDSCAPES



"IT MAY APPEAR SELF-EVIDENT, BUT THE PROCESS OF SPECIFYING FURNITURE FOR OUTDOORS IS AS FRAUGHT WITH ISSUES AS THE PROCESS FOR ITS INTERIOR COUSIN AND PERHAPS EVEN MORE CHALLENGING, STUMBLING ACROSS FURNITURE THAT HAS BEEN INAPPROPRIATELY PLACED IN AN OUTDOOR SPACE, THE EFFECT CAN BE DISPROPORTIONATELY DISTRESSING.

"There is an extraordinary interdependence between object and environment and I have become increasingly aware of how the space is in which a piece of furniture is to be placed is as important as the furniture itself. Two principles guide me in the process both of designing the furniture in the first instance and placing these designs outdoors. "First, one has to understand how a space is to be used and how one can encourage the user to feel when in it. Is this for the

individual or for a number of people, for privacy or for interaction, for relaxing or for activity. These seem straightforward questions, but it is interesting to see how often they haven't been addressed critically. It is our design remit to find ways of designing furniture that allows for and encourages subtle changes in function and atmosphere. "Secondly, it helps to understand the spirit of an outdoor space, which to be sure is often difficult at the planning stage, but this ultimately determines the appropriateness of furniture's material, colour, scale and visual density. "Somehow, one has to find a typology of furniture that is in balance with its surroundings and then augments it to just the right extent. This is a little like plant selection, there is no such thing as bad furniture, just the wrong location." Mark has collaborated with various furniture brands in the past to achieve outdoor designs

that connect 'object and environment'. Oasiq is one such brand with which Mark has enjoyed a continued collaboration. Harrie Van Valderen from Oasiq oversees all new design development for the brand and he and his team worked recently with the leading French garden architect Marion Faveron (Sofitel Legend) The Grand Hotel in Amsterdam supplying products for the important renovation of the centre court garden space of the hotel. Faveron selected the Sandur chair design by the Gabbertas Studio for the outdoor terrace space for its clean lines, transparent form and organic shape. The hand-crafted element was also important with this particular project given its heritage. Faveron selected a mixture of dining chairs and bar stools for the project in a mixture of anthracite and terracotta to work against the planting scheme to create a relaxing environment and haven from the buzzing metropolitan city which surrounds it.