



Maru Collection

The Maru Collection consists of finely detailed slat-style benches and accessories. A generous use of wood allows for a natural presence, while simple shapes convey a calming sense of clarity.

Product Story

Inspired by Studio Gorm's site-specific bench installation at the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art in South Korea, Maru builds off the flexibility and multi-functional nature of the Korean Pyung-Sang, a traditional multi-purpose platform. In conceiving the product for the US market, Studio Gorm wanted to achieve a solution that was familiar and open-ended in its application. The use of wood slats references the picnic bench, a universal and welcoming typology. Pads, cushions and tables in simple forms, were created to offer incremental functionality and allow for a broad range of configuration possibilities.

Designer Story

Studio Gorm is a design office founded in 2007 by John Arndt and Wonhee Arndt. Their designs are informed by speculative academic research, which explores culture, history and technology and how objects and ideas evolve to fit the needs of modern life. Their methods are rooted in physical making where objects evolve out of an experimental constructive approach; giving way to products that are simple, practical and designed for everyday life. John and Wonhee are based in Eugene, Oregon where they are both professors in the Product Design Department at the University of Oregon.

Inherent Flexibility

The slat construction, dimensional options and modular elements of Maru allow for powerful flexibility in configuration and application.

Biophilic Benefits

Biophilia focuses on human's innate attraction to nature. Maru's generous use of wood is meant to flood the senses with the presence of nature, allowing for a human connection through materials.

Indoor/Outdoor Continuum

With specifications suitable for indoor or outdoor use, Maru can be used to create continuity across indoor and outdoor spaces, and accordingly, pioneers an aesthetic that feels at home in either context.

Functional Clarity

Maru's slat-built platform, and straightforward elements, are designed to be easy to understand and used "without thought". Its use is familiar, allowing for a sense of comfort and clarity.