

GUBI

PRESENTS

BOHEMIAN 72 COLLECTION

by Gabriella Crespi



AL FRESCO



Bohemian 72 Collection by Gabriella Crespi

Milanese icons of lounge lifestyle revived in rattan

The Bohemian 72 Collection brings together Gabriella Crespi's interest in natural materials, her fascination with stacked sculptural forms, and her curiosity about Eastern cultures and philosophies, honed over years of travel. During her lifetime, these exclusive pieces were only ever produced for private clients, but today, 50 years after they were first conceived, in the year she would have turned 100, GUBI has worked from Crespi's original drawings to bring an extraordinary collection of iconic furniture designs into production for the first time.

In the Bohemian 72 Collection, GUBI has distilled Crespi's vision of a versatile furniture family for her house of the sun, conjuring a worldly Milanese sophistication from one of nature's most humble-seeming materials. Elegant, flexible, and refined, the collection is the pinnacle of the jet-set bohemian lounge lifestyle.

Alongside the 'Rising Sun' and 'Five Positions' Collections, the Bohemian 72 Collection was part of Crespi's wider 'Bamboo Collection', designed between 1972 and 1975, and encompassing a broad range of natural materials such as manao, malacca and manila canes, and woven wicker and straw.

Comprising a lounge chair, three-seater sofa, ottoman and floor lamp – all crafted from rattan – the Bohemian 72 Collection embodies Crespi's career-long aim to create furniture that seamlessly unites indoor and outdoor living. She never allowed curtains or screens to block the natural flow of light or air and had what her daughter has described as 'a deep sentiment for the cosmic energy of nature'.

Crespi designed all four pieces in the spring of 1972, from the terrace of her home in Milan. Drawn to rattan for its strength and versatility, she conceived these pieces at a time when the material was very much in vogue within the high-society circles in which she moved, viewed as the height of interior sophistication. Her decision to use repeating layers of vertically coiled rattan vines, however, was unusual for the time, and results in a distinctive and highly luxurious take on lounge furniture that has proved truly timeless.

Crespi's goal was to create a flexible rattan seating collection that feels equally at home in the city or the country, at the seaside or high on a mountain slope, breaking down the distinctions between interior and exterior wherever it was placed. Her great ambition, she once said, was to create 'a house of the sun' – an environment that radiated warmth, light and sophistication, and rattan – with its mellow tones and natural appearance and the way light passes between the canes – is the perfectly material to create such a setting.

To recreate Crespi's original designs demands a high level of craftsmanship, as the rattan canes must be steamed and then bent by hand around a die, specially made to the dimensions of her drawings. Because it is a natural material, standardizing rattan is a complex process, and color, texture and dimension differ from vine to vine, introducing another level of skill to the production process.

In all four pieces, the bent rattan canes and strips are stained with antique color and finished with a gloss coating to ensure a consistent appearance and a rich and warming natural texture. Layers of cane form the bases of the lounge chair, sofa and ottoman. The floor lamp has a shade formed from a vertical arrangement of rattan strips, with brass detailing. The pattern of the strips allows the lamp to cast a beautifully delicate play of light and shade on the floor around it, evoking an atmosphere of rustic warmth and bohemian sophistication. Each member of the collection can stand proudly on its own, but taken as an ensemble, the four pieces make a timeless statement of luxury.

Each of the seats is topped with a lavishly plump cushion that follows the outline of the rattan frame perfectly, based on Crespi's original drawings. Sleek in form but supremely soft, they introduce a cossetting level of comfort to the collection. This near-decadent focus on indulgence is emphasized in the backrest of the lounge chair, which has a generous 115° incline to encourage even deeper relaxation.

The collection is the beginning of a new collaboration with Archivio Gabriella Crespi and reflects the harmony between Crespi's artistic, bohemian outlook and her love of travel and GUBI's confident curations and global outlook.