

GUBI

PRESENTS

TROPIQUE COLLECTION

by Mathieu Matégot



AL FRESCO



Tropique Collection by Mathieu Matégot

Designed for la dolce vita

Created in the 1950s by the Hungarian-born French master of postwar design, Mathieu Matégot, the Tropique Collection of outdoor furniture captures the timeless glamour and exotic luxury of outdoor living on the Côte d'Azur in the mid-20th century.

More than five decades after it was first designed and 20 years since the death of its designer, GUBI is proud to pay homage to Mathieu Matégot with the relaunch of one of his most popular collections. Out of production for decades, the Tropique Collection has been revived by GUBI for the 21st century, giving a new generation a chance to live 'la dolce vita' as Matégot imagined it.

Combining material simplicity with a decadent aesthetic, Tropique comprises two dining chairs and a dining table. The frame of each piece is made from stainless steel rods, incorporating a distinctive statement curve at the feet – a signature of Matégot's style and a feature that unites the collection into a clear and cohesive whole.

Developed soon after Matégot had returned from WW2 and set up his furniture workshop in Paris, Tropique was one of four key collections that established his reputation as a designer. The curvaceous forms won the attention of some of the most prestigious design publications of the day and earned him a place at some of the most important events and exhibitions of his time. One such exhibition, Art & Decoration's 'La Fleur dans la Maison' in 1950, showcased the Tropique Collection immersed in tropical flora, brilliantly demonstrating the design's affinity with the natural world and the *al fresco* lifestyle.

To give his furniture a balance of strength, durability, and apparent weightlessness, Matégot frequently turned to perforated metal as a material choice, taking advantage of the fact it could be bent and shaped like fabric, resulting in lightweight, transparent surfaces. To create the Tropique Dining Table, a stainless steel sheet is pressed and welded onto the frame, providing a solid, functional surface that allows sunlight to pass through.

Tropique Dining Chairs' seats and backrests are today made from a durable yet gently flexible outdoor fabric that is attached to the underside of the curved armrests by a series of pins. This is a contemporary evolution of Matégot's initial construction whereby the fabric was woven through holes in the metal. This maintains the look of the original design while allowing the upholstery fabric to be easily exchanged. Hung in a hammock-like manner across the frame, the textile seat responds to the contours of the body. The backrest is padded with foam instead of the original horsehair and a loose pillow added to the seat ensures optimal comfort.

The Tropique Dining Chair is available with black or off-white powder-coated frames, for durability outdoors, and two upholstery options. The option of adding tasseled fringes to the arms, seat, and backrest introduces a note of playfulness perfectly in keeping with the design's laidback poolside character. Matégot's assured use of textiles in this collection offers a hint of his later career, as, having found international success as a furniture designer, he moved on to become equally influential as an upholsterer.

Of all the iconic designs conceived by Mathieu Matégot during his career, Tropique is among those that he loved the most, having chosen it to furnish his own apartment. Restored and updated, GUBI's revival of the Tropique Collection is a timely tribute to one of the most important and distinctive French designers of the modern age and the natural way to celebrate his legacy.