

GUBI

Product story
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COPACABANA REVISITED





A 360° design evolution for Mathieu Matégot's curvy metal masterpiece

GUBI presents Matégot's Copacabana Chair, optimized for comfort indoors and out

One of the greatest gifts of Hungarian-born designer Mathieu Matégot was his ability to transform robust industrial materials such as metals into the most delicate of forms. Few designs express this talent so beautifully as the Copacabana, a sculpturally curved lounge chair whose structure is formed with a single swirl of tubular steel. Elegant but laid-back, the mid-century design has become one of Matégot's most well-known, and a timeless favorite among lovers of modern design around the world. The Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris holds the design in its permanent collection.

Originally created in 1955, Matégot's iconic chair has been sensitively updated as a statement piece of indoor-outdoor furniture. The 360° revision preserves the singular expressive genius of Matégot's vision while introducing a bold new colorway and refining its ergonomics for modern-day body shapes. A precision-engineered adjustment to the angle of the backrest and seat maximizes comfort when sitting. At the same time, a stainless-steel material upgrade, additional drainage holes in the metal base of the seat, and the addition of outdoor upholstery fabrics enable the Copacabana to migrate between indoors and out, from lounge to loggia, parlor to patio, salon to sunroom.

A low-slung lounge chair perfect for a relaxed, easygoing lifestyle, the Copacabana has a unique expression that

seems to have been designed with a single stroke of a pencil. Both decorative and structural, curving tubes of metal form the legs, seat, and frame of the backrest, giving the chair a sense of dynamic motion. The backrest itself is crafted with perforated sheet metal – a Matégot signature. Complementing the contoured forms of the design, the material is strong and sturdy yet flexible. The perforations in the metal keep the design open in texture and light in weight, making Copacabana easy to move around – and outside – the home.

Copacabana's new ability to migrate from inside to out is a natural evolution of Matégot's own furniture vision. Like his comparably curvy Tropique Collection, the Copacabana Chair has a distinctly bohemian aesthetic and an alfresco feel, expressing its creator's approach to living space, where the difference between indoor and outdoor furniture lies not in aesthetics, only in material.

Two colorways are available for the Copacabana's new stainless steel frame. In addition to classic black, GUBI has developed an edition in International Orange, a color that Matégot turned to in a number of his furniture and lighting designs of the 1950s, including early editions of the Copacabana. This bright, bold, and joyful color is favored everywhere from engineering and architecture – it is the color of the Golden Gate Bridge – to high fashion,



where it has come to represent the heights of luxury. The use of orange introduces a distinctive playfulness to the chair, adding a contrasting softer dimension to the industrial hardness of the metal.

To withstand life outdoors, the original tubular steel of the design has been upgraded to powder-coated stainless steel, which is corrosion-resistant, much stronger, and more rigid. Three stainless steel tubular rings are pinned and welded together to form the seat. The base is an oval that is bent using highly specialist production techniques to form the continuous rear leg. The upper ring mirrors the lower to form the backrest. The straight front legs are welded securely into place to ensure the chair's stability.

Now attached to the base, the chair's cushion is available with a selection of indoor and outdoor upholstery options, including GUBI's exclusive Leslie jacquard fabric that also

features in Matégot's Tropique Collection, and the soft and luxurious but highly resistant Lorkey. With orange, white, and blue-toned colors available, both fabrics are designed with the outdoors in mind, offering a balance of elegant looks and durability that is equally desirable inside the house, where the pressures of everyday life can often leave their mark on less robust textiles. If the chair is to be used indoors only, the Copacabana's cushion can be upholstered with any desired indoor fabric from GUBI's extensive upholstery collection.

GUBI's enhancements to the Copacabana comprehensively transform the chair while preserving Matégot's striking original vision. A top-to-toe evolution in color, comfort, and functionality has given a landmark of 20th-century design a new lease on life for the 21st, and brought Matégot's groundbreaking chair into even more settings – inside, outside, and all the spaces in between.