

Woven Warmth

Humans have been weaving furniture from reeds for thousands of years—here are the designers who are doing it best today.

Bonacina is an Italian brand that has been bending rattan into shape since 1889. In the 1950s, the founder's son Vittorio recognized a new wave of design happening around him, and collaborated with several modern Italian designers like Agnoli Tito and Franco Albini on what are now iconic pieces that have been exhibited around the world. The family company is now in its fourth generation of Bonacina sons at the helm.



Based in New York with artisans around the world, fair trade production is at the heart of *The Citizenry* story. Their woven rattan pieces—among them chunky side tables and a handsome lounge chair—are made in close collaboration with makers in Indonesia, where the naturally growing rattan is locally sourced.

Mid-century pieces from the glory days of rattan furniture production are hard to find, and when they are, they do not come cheap. *Istdibs*, the online marketplace for vintage and antique furniture, has an extensive collection of rattan classics by Janine Abraham or Jacques Adnet that is easy to get lost in.

For more vintage woven furniture with a heavier-handed curation, try *Counter-Space*. The collection from the L.A.-based furniture seller is heavy on mid-century timber, caning, wicker, and bamboo, with the occasional woven classic like an armchair by Audoux-Minet.

In Barcelona, *Santa & Cole* refers to itself as an “editor” of well-designed products. Their portfolio spans urban street furniture like drinking fountains and bicycle racks, along with objects that work a little closer to home: pendent lighting or stackable wicker dining chairs by Ramón Bigas, designed in 1975.



A craftsman in the remote village of Kampung Naga in Indonesia who weaves decorative baskets out of rattan for New York-based brand, The Citizenry.



Rattan Salvador chairs by A00, an update on the 1974 design by Miguel Milá.

Another Barcelona brand is *A00*, which was founded in 2013 with a simple aim: to create functional, everyday furniture. What they have proven along the way, however, is that functional furniture can be beautiful, too. Among the beautiful pieces: a rattan chair designed by Miguel Milá in 1974, a classic they updated with colorful detailing.

Expormim was founded in Valencia in 1960 with the intention to export wicker products, a goal that nearly 60 years later, the company continues to achieve. In the 1970s, Expormim added rattan furniture to the repertoire, scaling up production to meet the weekly demands to line Mediterranean beaches with cane lounge chairs. Expormim has added new designers to the mix, like Jaime Hayon, while exploring the possibilities of woven furniture with their own internal research, development and innovation branch.

Agnes Studio is what happens when a Spanish designer reimagines furniture through the lens of PreColumbian and Mesoamerican history, with a dash of 1970s radicalism. Esoteric assumptions aside, these are chunky sculptural pieces with a dreamlike quality. For example, the Eclipse/Sol screen with mirror is a beautiful handwoven wicker design with sumptuous circles.