



WHETHER INDOORS OR OUT, CONCRETE FURNISHINGS NOW OFFER STYLE ALONG WITH DURABILITY

COOL COMFORT

1 BONGO BENCH CONCRETEWORKS STUDIO

The Bongo bench, from innovative California design firm Concreteworks Studio, is made to set you rocking. A creation of multitalented designer Alexis Moran, the bench derives from Bongo boards used to train surfers in the 1960s. Composed of a satiny-smooth slab of solid wood set upon contrasting raw concrete ellipses, it creates a pleasant side-to-side sway—perfect for boutique hotel gardens. www.concreteworks.com

2 SPONECK LOUNGE GREENFORM

Concrete is used to delicate effect in Greenform's Sponeck Lounge and matching ottoman, designed by Julia Von Sponeck. Here, two layers of fiber cement create sinuous, folded-and-curved shapes more commonly formed from steam-bent plywood. This low lounge cradles the body's frame, as the double layers provide support in areas of stress. The raw material looks striking against boldly colored, felt-cushioned upholstery, and is available in red, lemon green, red/anthracite, and anthracite. www.green-form.com

3 TWIG ESCOFET

From one of the world's most design-savvy cities comes the modular and organic Twig bench, by Barcelona-based Escofet. This freestanding, three-limbed concrete form can be configured to occupy or weave through complex planted spaces. Smooth construction and straight edges minimize the unsightly appearance of seams where two modules fit against one another. Its cool, contemporary look makes it a natural for modern spaces, though it is simple enough to serve many applications, and comes in gray, beige, and pure white for maximum versatility. www.escofet.com

4 TWISTA PLANTER GREENFORM

Switzerland-based Greenform offers a range of products made from a durable and sustainable material: fiber cement. Designed for year-round outdoor use, planters and site furnishings are hand-made from the same material that forms lightweight concrete paneling on building facades, allowing for much thinner and lighter products with more design flexibility. The Twista planter, designed by architect Marin Mostboeck of Austria, is a prime example: Its smooth lines and cheeky design make it suitable for use in contemporary environments both outside and in. Available in frost-proof gray or anthracite finishes, Twista remains dynamic in appearance whether standing alone or placed together. The planter comes in two sizes: a standard 24-by-12-inch module, and a 24-inch cube. www.green-form.com

5 SILLA-U ESCOFET

Also from Escofet is the Silla-U, with its striking silhouette and dynamic form. Made from tough, reinforced cast stone, its curved backrest is ergonomically designed to support arms and heads, while the recessed area under the seat is perfect for tucking in legs or bags. In a neutral granite gray, Silla-U works well as a freestanding piece, and its extended base may be placed directly on lawns or natural landscaping. The unit also works well in groups: its straight sides allow it to be smoothly joined to create continuous seating areas. www.escofet.com
SHUMI BOSE