



1.

ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WAS THE BENCH

From Castelminio di Resana (province of Treviso) to 4000 cities scattered in 32 countries around the world: this is the voyage of about 3000 products of the company Metalco, which for 25 years has designed and produced new generations of urban furniture. Stainless steel and Cor-Ten, extruded aluminium, Marmoresina, steel and exotic woods represent the range of materials used for seating, benches, enclosures, but also lighting, traffic barriers, plant guards, planters, bicycle racks, bulletin boards, litter baskets and shelters for public transport. Products enhanced by ongoing research, both in the in-house R&D division and in collaboration with prestigious designers like Antonio Citterio, Italo Rota & Alessandro Pedretti, Pininfarina, Toan Nguyen, Marc Aurel, to name just a few. In particular, the work of Metalco with Aurel, the French architect with a studio at Cassis, specialized in design of urban spaces, has already produced a number of innovations. One of them is the Cortenstyle collection, in Cor-Ten steel, composed of the Dea, Diva, Lua, Ela and Stella seats, chairs, armchairs and benches with a squared form, featuring laser-perforated backs and seats with a stylized botanical

1. 2. THE SQUARE OF THE LES ARCADES ROUGÉ COMPLEX, IN CHOLET, DESIGNED BY T+T DESIGN (CONCEPT) AND A+ ARCHITECTURE, WITH COR-TEN STEEL SEATING BY **METALCO**, DESIGNED BY MARC AUREL.

3. 4. DEA, DIVA, LUA, ELA AND STELLA, THE CORTENSTYLE SEATS BY METALCO AND MARC AUREL; THE BACK, ARMRESTS AND SEAT ARE PERFORMED BY LASER. THE COR-TEN STANDS UP TO AGEING, ATMOSPHERIC AGENTS AND VANDALISM.



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The treviso-based company **metalco** IS A LEADING PRODUCER OF HIGH-QUALITY *innovative urban furnishings*. AS PROVEN BY THE *project* FOR A square in cholet, IN THE LOIRE REGION, AND THE *OSMOSE interactive shelter* IN Paris



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1. THE OSMOSE SHELTER MADE BY METALCO IN PARIS FOR RATP, AND DESIGNED BY MARC AUREL. IT WAS POSITIONED IN MAY AT THE BUS STOP OF GARE DE LYON. THE COVERED SPACE HAS BEEN EXPANDED AND OUTFITTED WITH SERVICES FOR WAITING PASSENGERS.



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motif. Among the most theatrical applications of this seating, the plaza of the new shopping and residential district Les Arcades Rougé, in the center of the town of Cholet (northwestern France), in which the space for gathering and relaxation, between renovated buildings and shop windows, is furnished as a true urban salon, studded with trees and lighting fixtures with the form of large domestic lamps, where the seating by Metalco seems to be arranged almost casually, as in a courtyard or a large hall. Also with design by Marc Aurel, Metalco has produced the experimental Osmose interactive shelter for RATP, the public transport authority of the Paris region: it was

2.3. THE LIGHTING VARIES AT DIFFERENT TIMES OF DAY. THE SPECIAL DECORATIVE GLASS IS HEATED AT LOW TEMPERATURES.



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4. THE OSMOSE SHELTER INCLUDES INTERACTIVE SCREENS THAT SUPPLY INFORMATION ON PUBLIC TRANSIT AND THE SERVICES FOUND IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

installed in May at the bus stop of Gare de Lyon. Osmose gives concrete form to the evolution of the shelter concept, from a basic covering for waiting passengers to a pleasant, active place that dispenses services and information, with a positive aesthetic impact, well integrated with the cityscape. The shelter, with an area of 85 m², includes interactive screens with information on public transport and the neighborhood, racks for parking bicycles, with recharge points for electric bikes, a small open library (take a book, leave a book), lights that

change according to the time of day, comfortable seats, acoustic signals for the arrival of vehicles, and recharge points for small electronic devices. Osmose is also set up for use by the handicapped. (Antonella Galli)