Care and repair Make sure your outdoor furniture lasts – here's how. Outdoor kitchen special Cooking a three-course meal outside with a chef couple. At home with Krickelin Drop by Kristin Lagerqvist's dream garden.

> The making of a Brafab product – follow along behind the scenes

# Choose the right outdoor furniture Let Brafab guide you!



in the furniture industry

> Braicle Outstanding outdoor spaces

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Fun with colour Brighten your patio or balcony with our selection in trendy colours.

#### **08** Furniture to suit

your home Choosing furniture and accessories for your outdoor space? Let your home lead the way. 04

rattan.

Modern vs. classic

Be inspired by clean

lines and romantic



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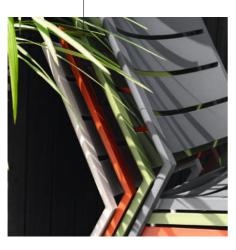
Making a product

**Product Manager** 

takes us from idea

to finished furniture.

Marie Bergqvist







Krickelin's world Lifestyle blogger Kristin Lagerqvist welcomes us to her 1920s home and garden.



The charm of an outdoor kitchen Meet the chef couple who love to cook outdoors year-round.

Brafab Moments is a magazine from furniture brand Brafab and is published once per year. This first issue was published in January 2021. Editors: Johanna Lagerfors and Kerstin Magnusson, OTW. Designers: Andrea Brandin and Karin Freij, OTW. Head of content: Ida Hedunger, Brafab. Printing: Ruter.



Synthetic rattan, aluminium or natural wood? We've got the complete guide to help you choose.

## Making outdoor memories

ur outdoor spaces are becoming our personal oases more and more, and the line between indoors and outside is getting blurrier. 2020 has been a remarkable year that has led to all of us spending more time outside, and many of us have also started to discover just how wonderful and healthy that feels. We're also trying to bring the same comforts and welcoming feel of our indoor spaces outside.

To provide ideas and inspiration, Brafab is now releasing the first ever issue of Brafab moments. In this magazine, we'll share our enthusiasm for the possibilities of outdoor gatherings in summer – and in chillier seasons, too. We have tips on colour, form, things to keep in mind, and different ways to decorate and furnish your outdoor space. There's no right or wrong. Rather, we hope you find a hearty dose of inspiration and creativity and run with it – dare to try things out! In short, our goal is to inspire those *moments* in life that are a pleasure to share with others.

**BRAFAB BEGAN AS** a small, family-owned company in the 1930s. At that time, our focus was on manufacturing and sales of baskets, wooden spoons and ladders. The company has grown since then and today, Brafab is one of the biggest outdoor furniture suppliers in the Nordic region.

"We hope you enjoy the read – and above all, we hope it leads you to your best life outdoors." Our company is characterised by the spirit of family, and we care about all of our stakeholders: customers, suppliers, employees, and not least, our expert retailers. Over the years, we have cultivated an entrepreneurial belief that anything is possible, and that has driven us and our evolution.

We hope Brafab moments inspires you and helps you create an outdoor space you love. The content of this magazine is also available in our digital channels. Brafab has a wide assortment of products and abundant expertise. For an overall picture, visit brafab.com – where you will find more products, inspiration and retailer information.

**WE ARE PROUD** to present the premiere issue of the magazine! We hope you enjoy the read – and above all, we hope it leads you to your best life outdoors, with Brafab's high-quality and sustainable outdoor furniture.

Happy reading! Ida Hedunger, Marketing Manager

Les fledinger

#### Mix boldly!

Add your personal touch and combine different styles. Or incorporate pieces you already own- sustainable and on point.

# Spotlight on contrasts

Do you dream of a sleek outdoor space with easy-to-maintain materials? Or are rustic rattan armchairs and romantic details more your style? Let us give you a hand, with a side-by-side look at two rather different styles. But they do have one thing in common: both will create an impeccable outdoor space in their own unique way.

Outdoor furniture with clean, simple lines is an ideal match for a modern, understated house. Pictured here is the Naos sofa set.

3.

## Modern and understated

2

1.

7.

Brafab's selection in stainless steel and aluminium is infused with true style and comfort. As an added bonus: caring for this furniture is easy. With a palette in beige, white, grey and anthracite, your patio will be more elegant than ever.



5.

8

9. (10) 1. Pollux recliner in anthracite, stainless steel with upholstered seat. 2. Lyra lounge sofa in black stainless steel, beige cushions and synthetic rattan arms. 3. Vind aluminium lamp shade. 4. Naos table in stainless steel with teak tabletop.

Pollux recliner in antracite, stainless steel with upholstered seat. 2. Lyra lounge sora in black stainless steel, beige cushions and synthetic rattan arms. 3. Vind aluminium lamp shade. 4. Naos table in stainless steel with teak tabletop.
Blixt table in white aluminium. 6. Kotte pouf in anthracite. 7. Blixt module in white aluminium with cushions in Clay beige. 8. Lyra table in black stainless steel with a printed glass tabletop. 9. Vence modular sofa in white aluminium with grey cushions. 10. Delia Du & Ja sofa in aluminium with cushions in anthracite.



Rosita armchair and foot stool in synthetic rattan with beige cushions.
Ninja corner sofa in synthetic rattan with beige cushions.
Alvena 2-seater sofa in white aluminium with grey cushion.
Lenora armchair in synthetic rattan with beige seat cushion.
Kamomill armchair in synthetic rattan with beige seat cushion.
S6:an table with hot-dip galvanized steel frame and teak tabletop.
Evita side table in synthetic rattan with glass tabletop.
Ashfield sofa in synthetic rattan with beige cushions.

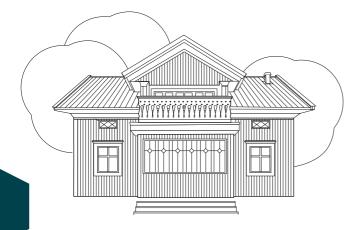
Complement a classic style with accessories and greenery. Pictured is the Glendon corner sofa with the Kastos coffee table.

**MANIE** 

# Let the hous lead the way

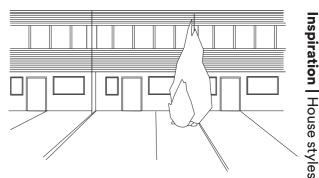
We all live in different kinds of homes: terraced houses, detached houses or flats. In addition, our homes were built at different times, and as architectural style often speaks to a particular era – so should the outdoor space. Interior architects Johanna Eliason and Cecilia Lindbom at Krook & Tjäder in Gothenburg explain how to choose outdoor furniture to suit the style of your home.

TEXT KERSTIN MAGNUSSON, JOHANNA ELIASON AND CECILIA LINDOM ILLUSTRATION KARIN FREIJ



#### **Turn-of-the-century house**

"It wasn't uncommon for houses built around the turn of the last century to be lavishly ornamented, with mature gardens that didn't necessarily have a purpose-built patio, but instead one that had emerged by virtue of some areas naturally being used more than others. That's why a furniture set that is easy to move to different places in the garden is just right here. It could be a round café table with compact chairs placed in the shade of a tree, or a classic garden sofa. For a larger dining area, try a modern solid-wood table paired with more traditional synthetic rattan chairs."



#### 1970s terrace

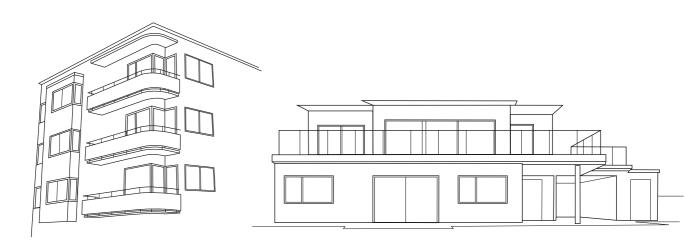
"Prefabricated buildings became common in the 1970s, and they also became increasingly streamlined in terms of both construction and floor plans. Lots of outdoor space is rare, so we use smaller arrangements here. For example, a compact sofa set framed by a trellis with climbing plants. Many terraced houses from the 70s have patios under balconies, in which case string lights or pendant lamps can be a wonderful addition. A corner with a hanging chair or two would also be fitting. We don't think it's necessary to choose 70s-style furniture; instead, choose something based on the feel you want to create."



Fläder sofa set in synthetic rattan.
Vallmo lounge set in synthetic rattan.
Arras sofa in anthracite, cast aluminium.



 Belfort 2-seater sofa in black aluminium and cushions in Pearl grey, with tilting back.
Pamir lampshade in synthetic rattan.
Andy chairs in aluminium and Lyon dining table with teak tabletop.
Du & Ja sofa in white-painted pine with aluminium wheels.



#### 40s functionalist flat

"The architecture here is understated, with clean shapes and no frills or decoration. This austere style was a reaction against the excessively decorated buildings that preceded it. Details might include wrought-iron balcony railings in simple shapes, often covered by ribbed metal. These balconies have limited space, so less bulky furniture is a good choice. Here, we would opt for lacquered metal furniture, either in black/dark grey or a lovely greyish green. For a cosier feel, you could provide contrast with wooden furniture instead."

#### **Modern house**

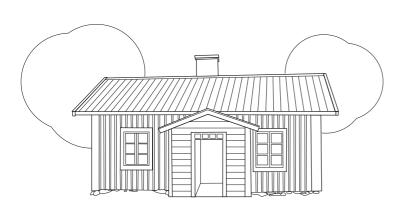
"This architectural style has many similarities to the functionalist buildings of the 40s and 50s. Boxshaped structures with large glass windows and open floor plans are typical. They're likely to have one or more generously sized outdoor spaces facing different directions, so you can afford to assign different functions to the different spaces around the house: a generous seating area for socialising, a bigger dining set adjacent to an outdoor kitchen, a few sun loungers with parasols, or maybe a pergola to the south."



 Vence sofa in white aluminium and cushions in Peony. 2. Vero tray table in white aluminium. 3. Wilkie aluminium folding chair in Khaki.
4. Delia aluminium lounge chair in Moss green.



1. Vevi lounger in teak. 2. Gotland dining set in teak and stainless steel. 3. Naos sofa set in stainless steel and teak.



#### **Countryside cottage**

"A classic old cottage painted traditional 'falu' red. Vertical wood siding is typical, but some of these houses are made of logs that are also painted 'falu' red on the exterior. These houses are simple in shape with a gable roof, often with a low facade, small windows – and not many of them. The outdoor space here is similar to the turn-of-thecentury house: a mature garden that doesn't necessarily have a purpose-built outdoor space. Classic wood furniture is an excellent choice, whether painted white or in natural wood that can age with elegance. A heavier chaise longue is perfect for a sunny spot with a parasol. And what could be more summery than a leafy alcove with a garden swing?"



Sottenville garden swing in white aluminium with blue cushions.
Reggio parasol in natural wood and grey polyester fabric.
Chaplin deck chair in antique white acacia. 4. Bruton set in grey acacia.

#### Tips!

- Make your outdoor space even more inviting with a few throw pillows and blankets to complement your furniture – a trick that will make your space feel relaxed and cosy.
- Lighting can set the mood and create a cosy space as the evening gets dark. Plenty of lanterns with candles, string lights and garden lighting are all great ideas.
- Arrange plants where your garden may lack them naturally. Plant trees and smaller plants in pots of varying sizes and arrange them in groups to frame your space.



 Nimy and Bertrix cushions in olefin and cotton. 2. Samlas bottle carrier in acacia. 3. Giang woven basket in water hyacinth. 4. Kotte pouf in olefin.
5. Belfort lantern in aluminium.





Cecilia Lindbom



# The outdoor space – where life unfolds

An outdoor space should be a space to enjoy, to live life free from pressure and to-do lists, according to lifestyle blogger Kristin "Krickelin" Lagerqvist. Her outdoor space has evolved into a gorgeous setting for her family to enjoy together.

TEXT JOHANNA LAGERFORS PHOTO ALICE JOHANSSON

n the heart of the Swedish town Varberg, just a stone's throw from the central station and a few hundred metres from the sea, is a big, beautiful yellow stone house from 1926. A wooden fence encloses the lush garden and

provides privacy. It's nearly impossible to tell that the plot is situated in a neighbourhood of detached homes right in the middle of town. Kristin Lagerqvist, better known as Krickelin, lives here with her family.

Five years ago, the family lived in a house built in the 70s with a big garden – and Kristin was certain they would live there forever. The previous homeowner had filled the garden with a pond, carefully tended flower beds and a collection of rare flowers, and the green thumb Kristin had inherited from her grandmother was put to excellent use. She invested time and money in maintaining the garden. But then "The House" with a capital H came onto the market – a house her husband Jonas had dreamt of buying for years.

"Already in the hallway as we were putting our shoes back on after the open house, I said, 'We want to buy this house!' There's just something about old houses, how the floors creak. They have a special soul, somehow," says Kristin.

**SPENDING TIME TOGETHER** outdoors is important to Kristin and her family. In the past five years, they've created a variety of different spaces in their new garden. That first summer, they set up the big greenhouse, the hub of the garden which they use nearly year-round. From there, they planned lots of little spaces: a place to sit beneath the apple tree; a place between the two little red sheds. The next summer, they added a beautiful round wooden sauna and an outdoor shower behind it.

A little stone path meanders between the deck, flower beds and greenhouse. Kristin walks a lap here each morning, coffee cup in hand, usually before her family wakes up. She greets her plants good morning and cuts a flower here and there to bring inside. If the neighbour is outside, they have a little chat across the fence and exchange plants.

"Being in the garden always makes me feel good. It helps me relax and brings me so much pleasure, no matter my mood."

#### KRISTIN LAGERQVIST'S GARDEN may

frequently be described as one of the most beautiful in Sweden, but the needs of her family have always guided her choices. The garden should be somewhere life happens.

"Our garden has grown organically and evolved based on us and our interests. As the parents of young children, for example, we had a huge trampoline for a while. It's not exactly the most beautiful thing in the world, but look on the bright side – it definitely tightens those glutes!" she says with a laugh.

The family went with a sunken trampoline, to merge it with the garden, and right away Kristin saw the potential of eventually turning the pit into a plot for her dahlias. They cut down a big tree that was hogging space and light to make room for raised beds of summer flowers. And as the children grew, the family's needs evolved.

"We wanted the kids and their friends to enjoy being at our house and to want to be here a lot, so we decided to invest in a pool," she says.

As a little stroke of luck, the pool was ready just as the coronavirus pandemic forced everyone to spend more time at home.

"Because of the pool, we all hang out together in the garden all the time. That's been great for us as a family."

The Lagerquist family's garden has numerous spaces to be in, and they've selected



Kristin Lagerqvist and her family have created a variety of spaces for socialising in their garden. They can relax on the sofa by the pool, or sit inside the greenhouse or at the dining area between the sheds. Pictured above: Brafab's Blixt modular sofa. different kinds of patio furniture for different purposes. A sofa set is arranged by the pool; a café table and two chairs form a cosy nook in one corner of the yard; and between the sheds is a grill and a dining area. The greenhouse is big enough to be furnished in many different ways, and Kristin moves the furniture around inside regularly.

"It gets warm early in the greenhouse, and from early spring until late autumn, we eat several meals a day out there," she says.

Sometimes they take the computer and watch movies in the greenhouse, and they've even hosted New Year's dinner here at a long table, in the middle of winter.

Inside Kristin's greenhouse is the Vallda swing chair and side table, the Sonnac bench with Pego cushions, and the Salvia blanket.

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**THE LAGERQVIST FAMILY** certainly doesn't lack plans. Kristin is constantly working on something, and nothing is ever "finished". That would be boring. Next year, the raised beds will be turned into plots and at some point – when life and the budget permit – the little sheds will be converted into a bigger orangery. At the same time, it's a luxury to be done with the biggest projects.

"We're at the point where all we can do is improve and refine what we've got, at the pace that life allows, without renovation projects clashing with everything else. And that's the funnest part!"

**KRISTIN'S GARDEN ISN'T** just a passion; it's also a work tool. She has run one of Sweden's biggest lifestyle and interior design blogs for years, and on a typical day, she takes her camera into the garden to create inspiration for her followers. They get to see life in the

### "Your outdoor space should be designed based on your wants and wishes; don't try to copy someone else's."

greenhouse, among the flowers, and inside the beautiful house all year round, both on the blog and on Instagram. Kristin regularly works on her computer outside under a parasol, when she isn't in her shop. She runs the shop as part of a lifestyle concept, which also includes a teahouse and workshops.

"I've turned my passion into my job, and when your home is your workplace, there's a natural risk of things becoming performance-driven. But I still find it soothing to be in the garden, and I try to relax my shoulders.



#### Kristin "Krickelin" Lagerqvist

#### Age: 41.

Family: Husband Jonas and three sons, ages 21, 14 and 10. Boris the dog. Lives in: A house built in 1926 in the Swedish town Varberg. Profession: Entrepreneur and photographer who runs one of Sweden's biggest interior design blogs (krickelins.se) as well as the Instagram account @krickelin, with a special focus on gardens and life outdoors.



For Kristin Lagerqvist, work in the garden is mainly about creating a place that makes her feel good. It should be unpretentious and guided by delight and inspiration.

Let things be a little wonky, because that's the way life is. It has its ups and downs," she says.

**THAT'S WHY YOU** should let your wishes and inspiration guide what you do, if you want it to be sustainable in the long term. Kristin is purposeful about conveying this mindset to her readers.

She writes on the blog about how her deepest valleys can feel "insanely exhausting" and how, at the same time, the peaks are energizing and delightful. But regardless of her mood, the garden is there – a place to work, a place to derive joy, a place to relax. She describes her gardening style as unpretentious and easy-going, and that's the approach she thinks everyone ought to have. That way, you can allow things to be as they are, without putting too much pressure on yourself.

### "I still find it soothing to be in the garden and I try to relax my shoulders."

"Your outdoor space should be designed based on your wants and wishes; don't try to copy someone else's. Most important of all is that it's a place you can enjoy. Make it accessible, make it what you want it to be, and give yourself permission to leave the garden without being 'done'.

That way, it will become part of your home and life."

## Guide

# Find the right outdoor furniture

Maybe you're considering practical outdoor furniture in stainless steel this year. Or maybe everything is ready to come out from winter storage, and all you need are a few fresh cushions and accessories. Either way, a little guidance is always nice. On the following pages, we will present a selection of Brafab's offering of outdoor furniture and accessories, organised by material and need. There are even more options to discover at brafab.com

Aluminium • Stainless steel • Synthetic rattan • Teak and other woods • Rattan Parasols • Cushions • Accessories • Covers



#### Villac

Villac is a modern, modular lounge set that can be arranged in an infinite number of combinations – the only limit is your imagination. Villac's best feature is its great versatility. You can easily vary a few sections to create your very own combination.



# Aluminium

Aluminium is a wonderful material for outdoor furniture for several reasons. Above all, aluminium doesn't rust, making the furniture practically maintenance-free. Aluminium furniture is also very lightweight and ultra-stable.

#### Samvaro

A modern yet classic series that is new to Brafab's assortment, with soft, curved contours that create a pleasant, inviting feel with an emphasis on the details. Available as a dining set and sofa set, all with olefin cushions with a water-repellent coating.

#### Vevi

Elegant and modern design of the best variety. Design Dick Björk. This series (which comes in white and black aluminium, as well as in teak) includes a lounge armchair with a foot stool and table, sun lounger, dining chair, dining table and bench. Also pictured is the Tronto blanket.

#### Blixt

Modern, modular and laidback sofa with an aluminium frame, texteline seat and olefin cushions. Inviting design and plenty of flexibility: build a single-seater armchair, or a long sofa with as many seats as you need. This new series also includes a table. Pictured with upholstery in Dusty pink and Sky grey. Also available in Clay beige.

#### Pollux

New-arrival Pollux has a fixed backrest and seat, for outdoor use. Take your indoor sensibility outside with this recliner.



#### Weldon

Weldon is an attractively designed series with a matte finish. The modules have all-weather cushions – perfect for a Nordic climate. Also pictured is the Talance nesting table.

Kotte pouf and Averio carpet.

#### Hillmond

The Hillmond extendable table is the perfect choice for a party. Choose between our longest extendable table, with space for at least twelve people, or the shorter version, which accommodates eight to ten.

#### Stettler

This spectacular lounge set offers width and depth that ensure you can relax in great comfort together. In addition to a two-seat end-piece and a comfortable corner section, the series includes a large coffee table and an extra-large rectangular foot stool that can also be used as a divan.

## Aluminium features and advantages:

- Lightweight and very stable
- Essentially maintenance-free
- Sustainable



#### Gonesse

Gonesse is a modern, modular lounge set comprising only three parts: a corner section and two movable two-seater sections. This allows you to use the same parts to build everything from a classic corner sofa to a daybed. Accompanying side table and shelf are optional. Also pictured are the Linz parasol, Nimy cushion, Bertrix cushion and Handzame blanket. Design Hugo de Ruiter.

#### **Delia & Nimes**

The Delia armchair (stackable) is ultracomfortable, with a modern look and elegant leg and frame details. The Nimes dining table comes in several sizes and colours. This stylish table has a ribbed tabletop with a unique sound-absorbent treatment. The legs are rounded and tapered.

Belfort lantern and Amarante carpet.

#### Belfort

A modern lounge series providing superior seating comfort. Belfort is one of Brafab's largest series, with everything from an armchair (see picture) to sofas and a complete dining set. It offers the freedom to design a pleasant, practical patio, whether the space is large or small.

#### I Did you know...

... they say that when Napoleon III was invited to the table in the Tuileries in nineteenth-century Paris, the emperor ate from an aluminium plate while the guests had to make do with plates of gold. It's an indication of just how valuable the metal was thought to be – which may be hard to imagine today, when it's used to make everything from soda cans to airplanes.

Aluminium is derived from bauxite, a very common type of rock. Its production requires enormous amounts of energy and a significant emphasis is placed on recycling the

material as much as possible.

# Protect your furniture

It pays to take care of your garden furniture and look after it well. To simplify things for you, we have a comprehensive selection of furniture covers. We have fitted covers for individual pieces of furniture, as well as large, shaped covers that can be used to protect an entire furniture arrangement. Their excellent fit keeps the furniture together and stays in place even when the wind is howling. Many of our covers have clever hook-and-loop fasteners and most are made from durable polyester reinforced by waterproof PVC at vulnerable points.



Stacking chair cover – as the name suggests, fits stacking chairs.



**Sofa set cover** – depending on the dimensions of your sofa set, we have several different cover sizes for modular sofas.



Dining set cover – depending on the dimensions of your dining set, we have several different cover sizes to cover and protect your furniture.



Custom-size covers – we offer custom-size covers for many of our collections.



Garden swing cover – a convenient way to protect your garden swing.



**Gäster cushion box** – remember to protect your cushions, too. Brafab has a wide variety of cushion boxes.

#### Naos

This new series incorporates clean lines and timeless design with a modern twist. The low seat height reinforces the modern aesthetic and the combination of materials is exciting: stainless steel and teak details on the armrests and tabletops. Also pictured are the Averio rug and Nimy cushion.

# Stainless steel

Stainless steel is a wonderful material for making frames for outdoor furniture, because it is rust-resistant, with the stability of steel. One advantage is that it can be used to make slimmer profiles than aluminium, and also big, beautiful pieces of furniture. For example, steel can easily be combined with everything from wood to ceramics.

# Guide | Stainless steel

#### Did you know...

... when Harry Brearley (born 1871) was 12 years old, he quit school and followed in his father's footsteps, taking a job at a steel mill in Sheffield, England. It was the beginning of a career that would lead to a revolutionary discovery in the steel industry. As they were preparing for World War I, the British struggled with rusty gun barrels. Harry Brearley, who had by then risen to a position as manager at Sheffield's steel laboratory, took on the task and experimented with adding chromium to the alloy. The resulting material was extremely resistant to rust – and today we call it stainless steel.

## Stainless steel features and advantages:

- Rust-resistant
- Robust with high stability
- Easy to maintain

#### Gotland

Exquisite design and remarkable seated and reclining comfort. The series comprises a dining chair, dining table, armchair, sofa, coffee table and lounger (see picture). Design Dick Björk.

#### Kozani

Clean, unbroken lines in a meticulous design; elegant yet not fragile, strong but not heavy. The ribbed chairs and table are made from beautiful teak on stainless steel frames. Also pictured are the Salema carpet, Cambre parasol and Belfort lantern. Design Dick Björk.





#### Lyra

New addition Lyra is a modern, understated lounge set in a wonderful blend of materials. The frame comprises black powder-coated stainless steel with beautiful synthetic rattan details at the armrests. Also pictured are the Nimy cushion, Pilas cushion and Kotte pouf.

#### Covelo

The airy wickerwork pattern in this series is made of durable, coarse synthetic rattan with a very natural appearance. Excellent seating comfort and high arms create an extra snug feeling. Pair with the back cushion from the same series. Covelo is also available as a sofa and armchair.



High-quality synthetic rattan furniture withstands all kinds of weather and frequent use, and is essentially maintenance free. Thanks to its design and natural-looking range of colours, this furniture will effortlessly transform your patio into a comfortable, inviting oasis during those wonderful spring and summer months. The high-quality material we use makes our synthetic rattan furniture very durable.

Laurion dining table in teak and black aluminium, Pamir side table and lampshade, Midway lamp and Averio rug.

#### Pembroke

A comfortable sofa set in twisted synthetic rattan with modern, rounded contours. Also available as an armchair.

> Learn more about Brafab's different fabrics on page 41.

#### Sandkorn

Elegant and restrained with inviting proportions in a relaxed New England style. Stylish straight lines and a new rustic colour. Water-repellent cushions. Also pictured are the Kastos coffee table, Handzame blanket, Nimy cushion, Kotte pouf and Trieste parasol.

#### Kamomill

The new Kamomill offers classic design with an open weaving in synthetic rattan. Olefin cushions. Pictured with the Circus dining table.

## Synthetic rattan features and advantages:

- Essentially maintenancefree
- Natural appearance with an aluminium frame
- Highly weather-resistant

#### Hornbrook

An affordable lounge set with retro elements and stylish details. Hornbrook is also available as a three-seater sofa and armchair. Also pictured are the Salvia blanket, Nimy cushion and Averio caroet.

### Did you know...

... the material used for synthetic rattan is made to resemble rattan, and can also mimic willow and bamboo. Making high-quality furniture out of synthetic rattan requires true craftsmanship. Assorted patterns are hand-woven onto the frame, which is usually made of aluminium, using fibres of varying thickness. Achieving a beautiful, natural look takes incredible care and expertise.





#### Kenton

A tasteful pairing of synthetic rattan and teak. The chair and sofa come with a seat cushion and flexible backrest cushion. The dining chair works wonderfully with many of our teak dining tables, and the sofa pairs nicely with our teak coffee tables.

#### Midway

This series includes a dining chair (see picture), armchair, sofa and lampshade. Made in twisted synthetic rattan with soft, modern contours and olefin cushions on sofa, armchair and chair.



#### Chios

The table's transverse teak rib tabletop and the matching seat and back of the stacking chair make Chios a lovely and versatile dining set. Also available as a sofa set.



# Teak and other woods

Teak wood is the most durable, and – many would say – the most beautiful wood for outdoor furniture. With the right care, it can be used outside year after year, due to its natural oil content. To protect wild teak, Brafab only uses cultivated and certified teak.

Among other types of wood, outdoor furniture can also be made in pine, which provides a classic Nordic look and is treated for wind and weather resistance.





### Did you know...

... wood can vary in appearance from product to product, because it may come from different trees of the same species. But that's also what lends this popular furniture its charm. If you take good care of your wooden furniture, it can often be passed from one generation to the next and will only become more beautiful with time.

#### Turin

This teak collection offers endless possibilities for combining modules to meet your specific needs. All the pieces in this series are flexible, foldable and easily placed, making it easy to furnish small spaces as well.



Lyon is an extendable table with a teak butterfly leaf. The tabletop provides a beautiful frame for the curved legs and the overall construction is robust yet elegant. Also pictured are the Andy position chair, Handzame blanket, Belfort lantern, Naxos seat cushion and Baltar carpet.

## Wood features and advantages:

- Beautiful natural material
- Each wood type has unique properties
- Requires care

#### Jackson

A classic teak deck chair that is simply perfection when combined with one of our deck chair cushions. Read more about our cushions on page 41.



#### Find furniture in more wood types at brafab.com

#### Boarp

A decorative storage and flower shelf in pine with removable boxes, providing plenty of space in a small area. Thanks to its slender dimensions it looks good on a patio, balcony or terrace. A great match for the Holma outdoor kitchen.

#### Zalango

An elegant set combining teak with anthracite-coated aluminium legs. Transverse teak ribs elevate the sense of quality and elegance.

#### Sindos

A classic beach chair in teak and high-quality textile. A convenient rack for elegantly storing four chairs is also available. Also pictured are the Belfort lantern, Pilas cushion, Ombrone cushion and Averio carpet.

#### Did you know...

... in the humid forests of tropical Asia, with oxygen-rich soil containing many organic substances, the winding liana plant used to make rattan thrives. Lianas climb upwards using their big, jagged leaves. The stem, which may be no more than 5 centimetres thick, can grow to over two hundred metres long.

# Rattar

Rattan is a strong material that is well suited to making furniture, because it's also so elastic, which provides rattan furniture with a comfortable amount of give. The weave of this beautiful and beloved material offers a light, natural and transparent look. If you have or are considering rattan furniture, remember to protect it from rain and snow, as moisture can affect the texture and colour of the material.

0.0.0

Vallda swing chair and coffee table, Sonnac bench, Pilas cushion, Salvia blanket and Pego seat cushion.

#### Rossvik

A new, elegant and restrained sofa with inviting proportions. Stylish design with straight lines and beautiful white cushions. Also pictured are the Varm coffee table, Pamir lampshade, Averio carpet, Salvia blanket and Samlas basket.





and a swing chair.

#### <u>Astrakan</u>

A compact, stylish sofa set made of pure natural rattan. Includes an armchair, coffee table with glass tabletop and a two-seater sofa.

#### Rattan features and advantages:

- Natural material
- Should be kept under a cover
- Easy to clean with water and a little washing-up liquid

#### Features and advantages

- Creates an indoor feel outdoors
- Provides shelter from sun and rain
- Many different options

# Beneath an outdoor roof

Around the world, gardens and parks are peppered with pavilions made of stone, wood and marble to provide shelter for visitors. If you want to bring an element of shade or shelter from weather to your garden, there are plenty of options. Pavilions and pergolas in various materials can be decorated for special occasions or everyday use. Options also abound if you're primarily interested in the shade of a parasol. Remember to choose the right sized parasol, and a base that fits the parasol you choose.

#### Heaven

Our most generous garden swing, with space for many people. The backrest can be reclined when you fancy taking a comfortable nap on the spacious bed section. Naturally, the electro-galvanized steel screws and fittings are included, as are the canopy, curtains and mosquito net.

#### **Piode**

A beautiful, elegant pergola to create a fabulous patio space in your garden. White or anthracite aluminium frame. Light grey polyester curtains with zip fasteners are included. A sun canopy is also available.

#### Varallo

A spectacular aluminium hanging parasol with tilt function. Comes with a cross base that should be anchored using parasol base weights or equivalent.

#### Markis

Practical 4×3 metre shade awning with a powdercoated steel support frame and canopy in 250 g grey fabric. The canopy has continuously variable adjustment and is opened using a crank handle.

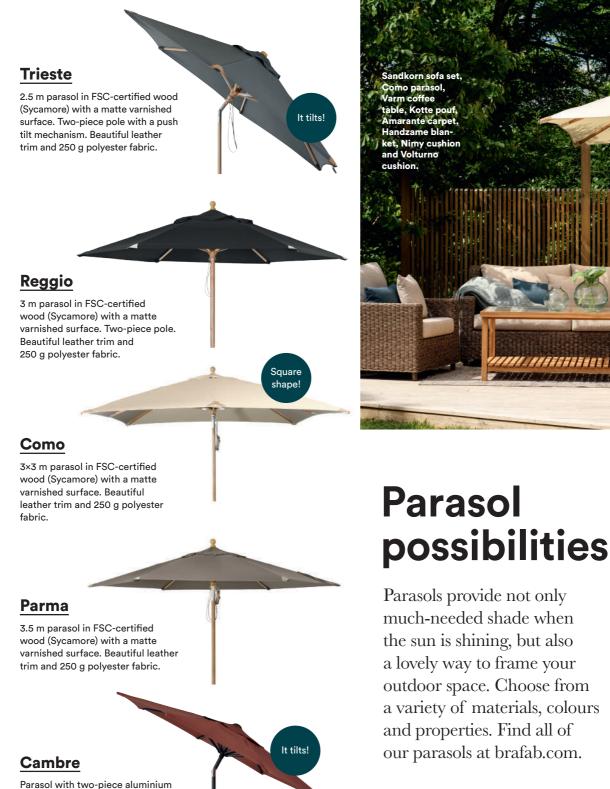
#### Easy Sun

Easy Sun is an impressive hanging parasol, 3.75 m in diameter. It has an aluminium stand and durable olefin canopy with an air vent. Easy to open and close with the crank. The base can be filled with sand and/or water to provide stability.

Hillmond dining table, Avanti dining chair, Battleford modular sofa, Taverny coffee table, Nimy cushion, Bertrix cushion, Handzame blanket and Salema carpet.

#### Did you know...

... the human urge to be out in the open air, yet still sheltered from rain or powerful sun, goes way back in history. Parasols were held over nobility and royalty in the Middle East in prehistoric times, and the first collapsible umbrellas appeared in Europe in the seventeenth century.



40

pole and eight steel ribs. 200 g polyester fabric with ventilation flap. Crank and tilt function. Available in three different diameters (2, 2.5 and 3 m) and many beautiful colours.

# ushions – icing on the cake

By choosing the right seat cushion for your furniture, you can achieve exactly the comfort and aesthetic you want. Brafab has cushions in all sorts of colours, patterns, shapes and materials.

#### Which material is right for you?

- Dralon is an acrylic fabric coated with Teflon, giving it a classic, durable quality. It is highly suited to outdoor settings thanks to its excellent light-fastness and weather-resistant qualities. Dralon is made by weaving together dyed fibres using a special technique, producing a highly durable fabric. Dralon cushions are comfortable to sit on and easy to keep clean.
- Along with dralon, olefin is considered the best fabric for cushions for outdoor use. Olefin has a textured surface and is colourfast, dirt-repellent, durable, tough and comfortable to sit on.
- We use what's known as **structured polyester**, which has a noticeable structure that makes it comfortable to sit on and easy to keep clean. Polyester has good light-fastness and is highly durable.
- To produce cushions with printed patterns we use a **combination of cotton and polyester** in some cushions. Cotton is a pure, natural material that provides softness and comfort. By blending it with polyester, we've produced a fabric that is better suited to outdoor settings.

See more of our large selection of colours, materials and sizes at brafab.com



Seat cushions Available in the collections Florina (pictured above), Ninja, Naxos, Dubai, Solo and Luca.



Low chair cushions Available in the collections Ninja, Naxos (pictured above), Dubai and Erpe.



High chair cushions Available in the collections Florina (pictured above), Ninja, Naxos, Dubai, Vigo, Trento, and Esdo.

Reclining chair cushions Available in the collections Florina (pictured above), Naxos and Dubai.

Deck chair cushions Available in the collection Florina.



### Make the most of every moment

When you buy and own outdoor furniture from Brafab, you know you're getting carefully crafted furniture with sturdy construction, tasteful design and reliable materials. We also know how important it is to be able to take a seat and try out furniture before you make a purchase. Is it comfortable? Does the chair you've chosen fit under the table? Does the colour of the lounger you want to buy match the furniture you already own? And would a stone or glass tabletop better suit a beautiful synthetic rattan sofa set?



YOU CAN ASK all these questions and more before you buy, and often, the only way to find the answer is to visit our skilled retailers, ask for guidance, and above all - take a seat and see how it feels. That's why at Brafab, we deeply value physical retail and a sustainable mindset - we are

happy to see final purchases made locally.



WE ALSO KNOW it can be nice to consider a purchase in the peace and quiet of your own home, and to be able to make your final choice from home, too. You can do just that by visiting brafab.com, where you will easily find information, inspiration and tips.

Wherever you buy your Brafab outdoor furniture, you can feel at ease. Our skilled retailers are always available to help you before, during and after your purchase.

## Making a Brafab product – from idea to finished furniture

Brafab is one of the Nordic region's leading suppliers of outdoor furniture, with a selection of thousands of pieces of furniture and accessories. To ensure high quality at every level, with creative solutions and innovative materials, thorough behind-the-scenes work takes place with a focus on the details.

TEXT JOHANNA LAGERFORS PHOTO NICKE JOHANSSON

#### "I want to use my hands, to be tactile, to be able to touch the products and adjust tiny details."

rafab is a well established outdoor furniture supplier with retailers in a lot of countries both within and beyond Europe, and Sweden is the largest market. The furniture is known

in particular for its excellent comfort, which has been a focal point for decades. Product manager Marie Bergqvist continuously develops new furniture in collaboration with the product development team. The team works together closely to develop new innovations, materials and products.

**MAJOR CHANGES ARE** currently underway in the outdoor furniture industry. Brafab's work process is largely based on the concept of outdoor homing: the trend of bringing the indoors out, and the outdoors in. The line between our indoor and outdoor lives has become increasingly blurred in recent years, and some interior design moves that were unthinkable just a few years ago – like putting a carpet under the patio dining table – are now a popular way to create a relaxed feel.

"People are adding pillows to their patio sofas, not just seat cushions, and using greenery in a totally different way in their outdoor spaces," says Marie.

Modern outdoor settings often contain multiple spaces. What used to be a dining table and maybe a garden swing situated to take advantage of the evening sun along a house wall has now become three or four different areas, each one serving a different purpose.

"It's also common to blend styles today. One area might be more romantic, while



an outdoor spa or lounge area might have a cooler look. Many people are also skipping complete sets in favour of pairing a sofa from one set with a table from another.

**TO SATISFY THE** modern need for flexibility, many of Brafab's furniture choices are adaptable, like nesting tables that can be used as needed. Outdoor homing has also led to a noticeable extension of the outdoor season in recent years, due in part to how popular sunrooms are becoming, and to the fact that it's becoming increasingly common to use outdoor furniture indoors. That could include rattan furniture in the bathroom, or the slightly heftier dining chairs that have become popular in rustic-style kitchens. Brafab's headquarters in Norra Össjö, Halland, Sweden have an office, a large furniture display and a warehouse. The main 38,000-square-metre warehouse is located in Markaryd, a few dozen kilometres away.



#### <u>Marie</u> Bergqvist

Marie was trained as an architect and has been product manager at Brafab since 2017. She has worked with furniture and interior design throughout her career.

Inspiration for a new product can come from anywhere. The product team keeps an eye on blogs and magazines, and on the interior design industry, of course. Bathrooms and kitchens tend to be great sources of inspiration, because new trends in materials often emerge early in these contexts. Even the fashion industry is relevant.

"I'm always watching out for new handbags and shoes, to pick up on the details and colours that pop up in different places," says Marie Bergqvist.

A new piece of patio furniture could be inspired by a picture that someone on the product team saw, a feeling they want to create, or a need that's come up in their own life. But their work can also be highly structured and might include market research, trend analysis and visits to furniture fairs.

"What's so fun and cool about this job is that one and one doesn't always make two. Predicting trends is kind of like looking into a crystal ball, but correctly interpreting what we're seeing takes a lot of solid experience. Brafab has many employees with enormous expertise and experience in the outdoor furniture industry," says Marie.

As important as it is to choose the right material, colour and shape, it's just as important to be able to reject a product when the timing is off. Intuition is essential in that arena.

#### "Brafab has a huge selection of products with both niche and mass appeal."

**STAYING ON TOP** of trends in order to predict what's going to happen early on is fundamental for Marie and the rest of the product team.

"Brafab has a huge selection of products with both niche and mass appeal. To make truly sustainable furniture, both physically and aesthetically, all of our products must maintain the same high quality. We always add our own twist to current trends; it's important for our sensibility and background to be present throughout the process."



**THE PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT** cycle lasts for about a year, but ideas for each collection are already being considered well before then.

"In spring 2021, we're developing ideas for summer 2022, and we're already gradually starting to consider summer 2023," says Marie.

Sometimes ideas are drawn by the product team, sometimes by an external designer. The initial phase is guided by creativity and design, but thoughts of construction soon enter the picture.

"That's one of the factors for success at Brafab. Since most of our products are produced far away from Sweden, we have to consider clever, sustainable construction solutions for the sake of both the environment and shipping costs. By the time a product launches, it's been thoroughly thought-out in terms of sustainability and user perspective.

The materials and colours are coordinated with Brafab's accessories to create cohesion.

**2020 HAS BEEN** an unusual year for most industries, and the coronavirus pandemic has also had an impact on Brafab's work. For example, travel restrictions have limited opportunities for monitoring production in person.

"We usually visit our suppliers a few times each season. We haven't been able to do that this year, but a major positive factor in all this has been our huge network. Thanks to our supplier relationships, which we've been cultivating for a very long time, our collaboration during the crisis exceeded all expectations," says Marie.

Brafab also has employees in many of the supplier countries, and they are well versed in what Swedish ordering parties want. That is crucial. Brafab's furniture is known for its excellent comfort, the secret of which lies in



the meticulous care that goes into choosing the proportions and precise angles of the seats, backrests and armrests.

**A LOVE FOR** the products is also what first brought Marie Bergqvist to Brafab. She had spent a long time working in strategy and development in multiple companies in the furniture industry in Sweden and North America, but felt that her work was too far removed from the product.

"I want to use my hands, to be tactile, to be able to touch the products and adjust tiny details. That's what influences the end result and adds the icing on the cake."

It has always been important to Marie to work at a company with soul and an international sensibility.

"I've actually always worked at familyowned companies and that's one of the reasons why Brafab felt right to me from the very start. There's so much knowledge and joy here – and a deeply rooted passion for what we do." Marie Bergqvist is product manager on the team that develops new outdoor furniture for Brafab. Comfort, attractive design and long-term sustainability are important components.



### Tips from Brafab's product manager

### Trendspotting

The most important part of creating your outdoor space is to base it on your wants, according to Brafab's product manager Marie Bergqvist. Personalise your choices and remember: it's better to scale back than go overboard.

The trend of outdoor homing, or blurring the line between indoors and outside, has been strong for a while and is likely to continue.

"We're decorating to suit our personalities, with lots of natural elements and soothing Scandinavian colours. 2020 has been an unusual year that has led everyone to spend much more time outdoors with friends and family."

Provide shelter from the sun with a parasol, and warmth in the cold with an extra blanket. The relaxed, warm and cosy style of 'peaceful living' has become especially popular during the coronavirus pandemic. Brafab's motto suits that picture well: make the most of every moment.

**"AT BRAFAB, WE** really focus on the details, because they create the overall whole. One trend we're seeing involves blending styles: a new sofa could be paired with a second-hand table, for example," says Marie Bergqvist.

Her best tip is to coordinate and combine to create your own style.

"Think long-term by using sustainable furniture, and play freely with colour in your accessories. More than ever before, we're creating personal oases in our outdoor spaces, our own little hideaways."

# Taking the kitchen outside

Simple but delicious: that's the motto when chef couple Cecilia Hansson and Mattias Larsson serve up three-course dinners on their patio at home in Rådmansö, north of Stockholm. The outdoor kitchen is becoming what the hearth once was – a natural gathering place and the heart of cooking.

TEXT KERSTIN MAGNUSSON PHOTO PETTER BÄCKLUND

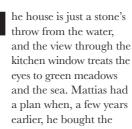
#### Cecilia Hansson & Mattias Larsson

**Live in:** Rådmansö outside Norrtälje, north of Stockholm.

Profession: Mattias is a chef and lecturer. He has also appeared on Swedish TV as a chef, and is known as the "Friday chef" on the radio. Cecilia is a pastry designer and freelance graphic designer. Both of them blog and write about food for various websites and foodfocused magazines.

#### Learn more:

fredagskocken.se, blogg.alltommat.se/ homemadestockholm and Instagram accounts @Fredagskocken @homemade\_by\_ cecilia.



land on which the house now stands.

"Really, I just wanted to be able to work more from home and I made that happen with space for a culinary studio and a huge outdoor kitchen," he says.

Mattias has worked as a chef and lecturer for many years; he also holds events around the country. A few years back, he realised he wanted to travel less and spend more time in one place – without having to stop working.

"That's about the time I met Cecilia, who shares my passion for creativity and food," says Mattias.

Cecilia studied to be a graphic designer, but she's also spent years professionally cultivating a talent she's had since childhood: baking and creating pastries.

"I've loved to bake for as long as I can remember. And since I also work with graphic design, I'm always thinking about aesthetics, about how the pastries are presented and how the colours work together. And then I keep working on the flavours."

**THE OUTDOOR KITCHEN** plays a central role for this couple, both professionally and personally. They enjoy having friends over for dinner and do so often, both in summer and even in colder seasons.

"Food just tastes better outside. In summer, with a good workbench, you can do pretty much everything outside as long as it isn't raining. In winter, maybe you won't eat outside, but you can still serve hot starters from the outdoor kitchen with cocktails," says Mattias.

Cecilia and Mattias say the key factors are to keep the menu fairly simple, take advantage of the fact that you can use the barbecue year-round and use the stove for frying and heating.

"The outdoor kitchen functions like a kitchen island, a hub, almost like a hearth where everyone gathers; it's wonderful. Guests can get in there and do some work if they want, or take a seat on the sofa and enjoy a drink."

#### Keys to success in your outdoor <u>kitchen</u>

#### 1.

Don't complicate things; choose a simple menu. When you're cooking outside, everything will be extra tasty anyway.

#### 2.

Bring out as much as you can before you begin. Gather your ingredients on trays and take them to the patio.

#### (3.)

Everything doesn't have to be ready when the guests arrive; cooking together is part of the experience.

#### 4.)

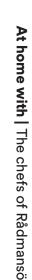
Set up a cabinet or something similar near the outdoor kitchen to hold kitchen utensils and equipment, a big roll of paper towels, olive oil and salt. Make sure the cabinet is waterproof.

(5.)

Last but not least: invest in a kitchen that doesn't require too much maintenance. If it's too fussy, you might not use it.

#### Tip!

Brafab's selection includes several practical and stylish outdoor kitchens. Find them all at brafab.com



#### Blackened asparagus with seasoned smetana, browned butter and egg 4 servings

300 g green asparagus 2 hard-boiled eggs 75 g butter 4 radishes 4 lemon wedges 1 bunch chervil (or another tasty herb) olive oil and salt

<u>Seasoned smetana</u> 100 g smetana 1/2 tsp ground fennel seeds salt

Combine the smetana and fennel seeds with a pinch of salt. Whisk until the smetana becomes airy and thickens.

Chop the eggs. Place the butter in a pot and cook until it is light brown and develops a nutty fragrance. Add the chopped egg and remove from heat. Feel free to place the pot on the grill while you make the asparagus.

Trim the asparagus and toss with a drizzle of olive oil. Heat the grill to the highest temperature. Grill the asparagus and lemon wedges for about 3 minutes, until they have nice grill marks.

Arrange the asparagus and lemon wedges on four plates. Pour the browned egg butter on top and add the smetana. Finish with grated radishes and a few sprigs of chervil or another tasty herb.

#### Summer cocktail with gin, elderflower and basil

4 servings

12 cl good gin 2 dl elderflower juice 4 dl soda water 1½ dl lime juice 4 lime wedges basil and ice

Combine the gin, juice, sodawater and lime juice, divide among 4 glasses and top with basil and ice. (You can also skip the gin.)



#### Flatbread with spicy chicken and toppings

4 servings

#### Flatbread

2¾ dl milk 45 g butter 15 g fresh yeast 1 tsp salt 1 tsp sugar 420 g (about 7 dl) bread flour

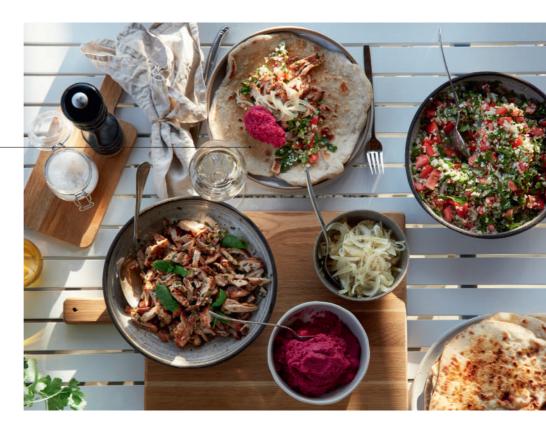
<u>Garlic butter</u> 50 g butter ½ clove garlic

Melt the butter in a pot and pour in the milk. Crumble the yeast in a mixing bowl and add the milk-butter mixture. Stir and then add the salt, sugar and flour. Knead the dough well, preferably for 6–7 minutes in a mixer with a dough hook. It should loosen from the edges, but stick to the bottom; add more flour if it's too wet or a little milk if it feels dry.

Let the dough prove for about 1 hour, until doubled in size.

Divide the dough into four pieces and roll them into flatbreads, about 2 mm thick. Cover with a clean towel and let prove for another 20 minutes. Grill the bread on a pizza stone at the highest heat, or fry in a frying pan on medium heat, for about 3 minutes on each side.

Place the butter in a pot. Grate or press the garlic clove and stir it into the butter. Melt the butter on the grill or on the stove. Brush the flatbreads with butter before serving.



#### "The outdoor kitchen functions like a kitchen island, a hub, almost like a hearth where everyone gathers; it's wonderful."

#### **Chicken thighs**

600 g boneless chicken thighs 1 tsp ground cumin 1 tsp smoked paprika olive oil and salt

1/2 dl olive oil 1/2 dl finely chopped mint

Combine the chicken with the herbs, salt and a drizzle of olive oil. Grill the chicken thighs for about 10 minutes, until they are cooked through and have nice grill marks. Cut the grilled chicken into strips and combine with the mint and oil.

#### Fennelpickled onion

1½ dl vinegar 1½ dl sugar 3 dl water 1 tsp crushed fennel seeds 2 yellow onions salt

In a large bowl, combine the vinegar, sugar and water with the fennel seeds and a pinch of salt. Bring the brine to a boil. Peel, cut in half, and slice the onions while the brine is heating. Place the onions in the hot brine and then let cool.

#### Beetroot and ginger hummus

230 g cooked chickpeas 125 g cooked beetroot 2 tbsp olive oil 1 small garlic clove 1 tbsp finely grated ginger 2 tbsp tahini 2½ tbsp lemon juice salt

Grate or press the garlic clove. Place all ingredients in a food processor and process until you have a nice, smooth hummus. Season with salt.

#### Tabbouleh

1 dl bulgur (uncooked) 500 g tomatoes (about 4-5 tomatoes) 1 vellow onion 4 dl roughly chopped flat-leaf parsley 1½ dl lemon juice 1/2 dl olive oil salt

Cook the bulgur according to the instructions on the package and then chill. Dice the tomatoes. Peel and chop the onion. Mix all ingredients together and season with salt.



#### **French toast** with berries and cream cheese mousse

At home with | The chefs of Rådmansö

4 servings

4 slices bread 2 eggs 2 tbsp sugar 3/4 tsp ground cinnamon 1 dl flour 2 dl milk butter for frying

Cream cheese mousse 150 g whipping cream 100 g cream cheese 1/2 dl icing sugar

Toppings Berries and maple syrup

Combine all of the ingredients for the cream cheese mousse and beat until the consistency resembles lightly whipped cream.

Cut off the bread crusts and cut the slices in half. Whisk the eggs and sugar until light and fluffy. Whisk in the flour, cinnamon, and then the milk. Let the batter rest for about 10 minutes.

Dip the bread in the batter and fry in butter on medium-high heat until golden, just before serving.

Top with a dollop of cream cheese mousse, berries, and a drizzle of maple syrup.

kitchen!

See more outdoor

kitchens from Brafab

on the next page.



dining table and Delia dining chairs, all in white aluminium.

### Cook like a chef

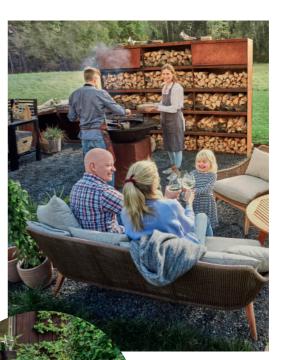
Upgrade your patio with an outdoor kitchen and take full advantage of sunny summer days and light nights. Gather around the outdoor kitchen to prep and cook, then have a seat with your loved ones and enjoy your meal outside. Here are some practical and stylish options from Brafab.



#### Bellac

A modern, stylish outdoor kitchen in aluminium with a grey granite worktop. Bellac comes in three different modules: one with a workbench and upper shelf; one with a workbench, sink and tap (stainless steel); and a corner module (all modules have a lower shelf). Simply connect the tap to your garden hose. In other words, combine the modules however you like to suit your needs!

Find even more outdoor kitchen options at brafab.com



#### Holma

A practical and robust outdoor kitchen in black-stained pine with a high-pressure laminate worktop. Visible knots in the pine lend a robust and sturdy feel, while elegant corner details create a slick, thoughtfully designed look. Simply connect the tap to your garden hose.

3

#### Coldstream

A modern and movable outdoor kitchen in blacklacquered aluminium with a stainless steel worktop, sink and tap. Coldstream has a generously sized work area and big wheels, making it easy to move around. Practical storage behind sliding doors and hangers on the sides for your grilling tools and more. Simply connect the tap to your garden hose.

#### Figalia

A timeless, movable outdoor kitchen in beautiful teak with a generously sized Dekton (composite stone) worktop, stainless steel sink and tap, and large wheels. Elegant, ribbed sliding doors conceal practical storage space, and handles on the sides can hold your grilling tools and more. Simply connect the tap to your garden hose. Choose a worktop resembling marble or concrete.

Brafab's founder, Bror Karlsson, centre, with a truck loaded with the Gammeldags garden furniture series – a classic model still in production today.

## A leading furniture brand – with 90 years of experience

What began in the 1930s with farm-to-farm sales of baskets, wooden spoons and garden furniture has grown into an established brand with virtually global sales. Today, Brafab is among the leading suppliers of outdoor furniture in northern Europe.

TEXT JOHANNA LAGERFORS PHOTO NICKE JOHANSSON



### "From the very beginning, the combination of comfort, design and practicality has been foundational to Brafab."

rafab is a family-owned business with an incredible history that is not only part of the company's heart and soul. It is also intrinsic to how we became who we are today. With our strong spirit of service and belief in the importance of personal relationships with our customers, suppliers and retailers, we are leading our business towards a future in which outdoor furniture has ever-increasing importance in our homes.

**BRAFAB'S HISTORY REACHES** all the way back to the 1930s, when travelling salesman Bror Karlsson began selling hand-made products in the region surrounding Norra Össjö, Halland, Sweden. He was born just a few hundred metres from Brafab's current headquarters. At that time, the area was dotted with small farms with limited means of subsistence for much of the year. In summer, the residents worked at the bigger farms a few dozen kilometres away, while winters were spent making potato baskets, brushes, and eventually garden furniture made of pine. Bror Karlsson was a popular man who was seen as an enterprising entrepreneur.

"The garden furniture – a sofa, table and two chairs – was called Gammeldags and it's still part of our product range," says Bror's son, Rolf Brorsson, who is 79 and still partly active in the company. Rolf and his siblings grew up a stone's throw from Brafab's current office.

"We helped make the products from a young age, especially me; I would often sit and weave baskets with my father. We bought four-metre strips of rattan from Indonesia and used steel rings from cables that were just the right size." Weaving a basket took about an hour. The baskets were 14 inches wide across the base and 21 inches at the top, which made them stackable and practical to carry into the potato fields.

**AT AGE 15,** Rolf joined his father for the first time to sell the wares, travelling by horse and buggy. A few years later, he bought his first truck, which he used to try his luck at various local markets.

"The first time was a rainy Wednesday, I recall, and I didn't sell much. I headed out into the countryside to try to make a little more money before taking out my sleeping bag, making some coffee on the kerosene stove and falling asleep between the hand brake and gear stick."

Rolf was full of ideas and visions for how to help the family business grow. When they expanded the wooden furniture offering to include modern, durable steel furniture in the 1960s, they also enhanced the comfort with softer seats made of woven plastic strips. From the very beginning, the combination of comfort, design and practicality has been foundational to Brafab. Details, materials and just the right proportions unite to create furniture on which to enjoy a nice, comfortable seat for a long time.

**DEMAND FOR GARDEN** furniture grew in the 1970s in Sweden, and Brafab's Swedish pine furniture was supplemented with plastic furniture from the continent. In the 1990s, the selection was further expanded with furniture from Asia in aluminium, synthetic rattan, stainless steel and more. The company's purchasing and development representatives travelled there regularly to see their products take shape. Eye contact and a physical handshake are important for building personal relationships with suppliers – relationships that last.

"You can never really get to know people from a distance. For the most part, we know our retailers and suppliers personally, which has been one of the cornerstones of our shared success," says Rolf.

However, a genuine love of furniture also plays a role. Each detail is carefully considered and for all these years, excellent comfort has been Brafab's hallmark. The philosophy is as important as it is simple: "Why sit in an uncomfortable chair?" This is the mindset that has made Brafab famous for good comfort. Whether you're looking for something low maintenance, exclusive, or a particular style, you can always trust that this furniture has been developed with care.

**BRAFAB'S PRODUCTS ARE** now in over 20 markets internationally, and Brafab has employees in both Sweden and Asia. Thinking big, thinking innovatively, and cultivating a local mindset, personal relationships and authenticity are part of the company's DNA and always have been. What started as Bror Karlsson's one-man business is now one of northern Europe's leading outdoor furniture brands and a pioneer of an entire industry.

A statue of Bror Karlsson and his fully loaded truck stands outside Sparbanken bank in Hishult, Sweden. He is part of the region's history, and when Rolf tells people about Brafab, their reactions are always positive.

"People will often tell me that they have Brafab furniture at home, and that they've had it for 30 years. That's the best rating we can get."

#### Rolf Inge Sivald Brorsson

**Age:** 79.

Family: Partner and two daughters. Live in: A modern house in Markaryd, which he built for his 70th birthday. Profession: Ran and developed Brafab for 65 years. He is now retired, but remains active on the company's board of directors and executive management group. Buying outdoor furniture can often be a relatively big investment, and with both the budget and environment in mind, it's important that your furniture lasts for many years to come. But what is the best way to care for it? Read on for answers to some of the most common questions.

TEXT ANDREA BERNÂKER PHOTO BRAFA

# Caring for your outdoor furniture

 hy is it important to take care of your outdoor furniture?
It will lengthen the life of your furniture if you keep

it clean, store it indoors in winter, and look after it well. Think of caring for your outdoor furniture a bit like caring for your car. When the car needs a wash, few people skip it – but it can be easier to forget about your outdoor furniture.

#### If I want very low-maintenance furniture, which material should I choose?

Synthetic rattan and aluminium outdoor furniture are both practically maintenance-free; simply clean it now and then to lengthen its lifespan. But the cushions will need a little Wood requires a little more care than other materials. Tables and chairs need regular oiling or impregnation – this is essential. more care than that: be sure to store them under a roof at night, or in a cushion box. You can also use a furniture cover.

I want my wood furniture to last as long as possible. What should I keep in mind? Wood must be kept clean, and it must be kept from drying out. Protecting wood by oiling it is a good option, but will make the wood darker. If you want to protect your wood furniture without darkening it, other impregnation treatments are available. These are available at brafab.com.

*Can all outdoor furniture withstand rain?* Yes, but acacia and natural rattan should be kept inside a sunroom or under a roof. They can handle a little rain, but will stay beautiful much longer under shelter.

#### "Think of caring for your outdoorfurniture a bit like caring for your car."

Can any outdoor furniture be outside year-round? Furniture in any material can theoretically be kept outside, even in winter, but its lifespan will be much shorter. Snow, ice, cold and moisture wear on furniture and shorten its lifespan, leading to the need for more maintenance.

#### What is the best way to store outdoor furniture for the winter?

First of all, make sure your furniture is dry before you put it away for winter storage. Wood furniture in particular must be dry before it is covered with a tarp or cover; otherwise, it runs a high risk of developing mould. It is best to prevent the cover or tarp from resting firmly against flat surfaces, such as tabletops, by allowing for ventilation. For example, place a bucket on top of the table before covering it to ensure better ventilation than if the cover is allowed to be flat against the tabletop.

Can I put my synthetic rattan furniture in a sunroom with a lot of sun exposure? Synthetic rattan is a very durable material, but consider how hot it can get inside unventilated sunrooms. Heat can dry out the plastic and make it brittle. It's best to cover surfaces at risk of exposure to direct sunlight.

What should I do if my furniture breaks? At Brafab, we have a large warehouse of spare parts. Through our skilled retailers we should be able to provide any components you may need to replace on a piece of furniture.



**Everything you need to make sure** 

# One sofa, many styles

Elin Odnegård, interior stylist.

By no means must the style of your outdoor space be determined by the sofa you choose. We worked with stylist Elin Odnegård to see just how effortlessly Brafab's Samvaro sofa set fits in with a minimalist, bohemian and creative style. Which do you prefer?

TEXT JOHANNA LAGERFORS PHOTO ALICE JOHANSSON STYLING ELIN ODNEGÅRD

ustainability isn't just about materials and manufacturing – if you buy furniture you really like, it will last a long time. And with a little creativity, you can easily use the same sofa to anchor several different interior design styles. That way, even when you're ready for a change, your furniture will still work.

Brafab's Samvaro sofa is modern, yet classic. Soft, curved contours create a pleasant and inviting feel with a focus on the details. The armrests are gently curved for comfort, and the olefin cushions have a water-repellent coating. The series also includes dining chairs and a dining table. Learn more at brafab.com.

### Minimalist

"Minimalist style is understated and lets the furniture speak for itself. That puts the emphasis on the quality of the objects. How the materials come together matters, like hard aluminium and soft textile in the Samvaro sofa. The surroundings also clearly stand out in interaction with the furnishings."

Ombrone cushion, Nimy cushion, Belfort lantern and Vevi coffee table.

### Creative

"Creative style is more experimental and reflects the individual's lifestyle and interests. You can tell what the people who live here enjoy doing, whether it's skateboarding, listening to music or reading interior design magazines. Creative style boldly combines colours, shapes and patterns in unexpected ways for an unrestricted and free overall look."

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### Bohemiar

Bohemian style is all about using what you've got to create a sense of relaxation and harmony. It leans towards the romantic side of things, with plenty of textiles and warm lighting for a cosy feel. Small tables, baskets of cushions and overlapping carpets provide a flexible outdoor space with room for as many or as few people as you like, as needed. Pots and plants can be used as dividers, and a parasol offers shelter from the sun while framing the space and creating the feel of a roof."

> Salvia blanket, Ombrone cushion, Pilas cushion, Midway lamp, Trieste parasol, Hydra side/coffee table and Belfort lantern.

Jazz up your dining or lounge set with some of our trendy colours this season. Brafab's assortment in Khaki, Burnt paprika and Moss green fit wonderfully with most Nordic-style outdoor furniture. And together, they form a beautiful backdrop for the sea, meadows or forests often found in our region. Try them out and see what appeals to you.

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# All eyes on the skies

Every August, the northern hemisphere is treated to a dazzling meteor shower pouring across the night sky. Many people are keen to watch – including Barbro Larsson, dressed warmly and settled back on a fully reclined lounger.

"I lie flat on my back; it's important to be comfortable so that you can stay in place without moving for a long time," she says.

TEXT KERSTIN MAGNUSSON PHOTO NICKLAS LÄRKA & SHUTTERSTOCK

an optimal experience

( 1. `

**3 tips for** 

Be sure your chair or sofa is very comfortable. You're going to be here for at least an hour. A lounger is perfect, but a comfortable outdoor sofa or chaise longue would also work.

Make sure it's completely dark and clear enough to see the stars. City lights outshine the stars, unfortunately, so whether you choose a chair or sofa, you won't see much in the city.

(2.)

Dress warmly. If mosquitoes are an issue where you live, spritz yourself with insect repellent.

(3.)



he hasn't always been interested in starry skies and celestial bodies. But about six years ago, a neighbour told her something that would change the way she spent early August nights at her cottage in Björkö, outside Gothenburg.

"A friend and neighbour told me about the Perseids, an annual meteor shower. I thought that was interesting, and I asked him when it would happen. He said to look up on 'Lars' day, his name day, which is a tradition in Sweden. That's 10 August, so it was easy to remember," says Barbro with a smile.

#### **Barbro Larsson**

#### Age: 71.

Lives in: Central Gothenburg. Profession: Active and retired. Family: Husband and two grown children. Two grandchildren and one on the way. Interests: Reading fiction and books on ancient history, nature walks, singing in a choir, listening to classical music. **THE PERSEID METEOR** shower happens each August and lasts a few days; the peak is usually around 10 August. In Sweden, they usually say the climax is around 12 August. The shower begins when the Earth passes through the tail of the Swift-Tuttle comet. It is called the Perseids because the meteors appear to be coming from the location of the constellation Perseus. It's one of the most reliable celestial phenomena we can see and many people describe it as an incredible experience. Barbro Larsson agrees.

"It's almost a bit spiritual. I lie outside in my chair, surely for two hours straight, and I sweep my gaze across the skies. Sometimes they look like sparklers, and sometimes you can see the stars moving slowly but surely across the arch of the sky."

She's all bundled up in her chair, and points out that you have to lie flat on your back and look up for the best view. It's best to have a piece of furniture that is easily adjusted to a fully horizontal position. And be sure you've added a soft, thick cushion, so that you can stay outside for a while. A blanket to wrap up in might also be nice.

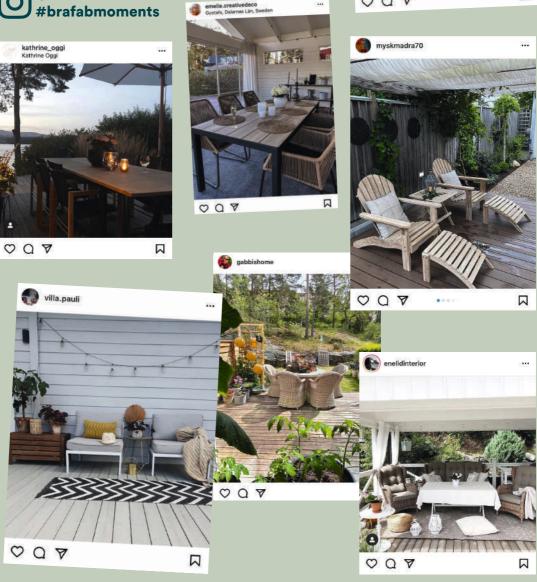
"And of course, you need clear weather. I head out late, around 11 at night; that's when it first begins to get properly dark in August. Then, simply enjoy."

### Get inspired!

@brafab

Mix materials, invigorate your space with plants, or keep things simple. It can be so inspiring to see how others have styled their outdoor spaces, gardens and balconies. Here's a selection of all the gorgeous pictures posted on social media that feature Brafab furniture. Enjoy!







#### Brafab - make the most of every moment

The goal of Brafab moments is to inspire you to create a beautiful outdoor living space to enjoy with Brafab's sustainable, high-quality furniture. But it's impossible for us to present our entire selection in one magazine. Instead, you can find it all at **brafab.com**!

We hope we've inspired you and piqued your interest, or perhaps you've already chosen the furniture you want to enhance your patio. Either way, we invite you to visit our website as a resource for outdoor furniture. It's full of tips and inspiration for colour, design, materials, sustainability and furnishings.

**Brafab.com** has our entire selection of products, inspiring articles and videos, and contact information for our retailers. In short, our goal is to inspire those moments in life that are a pleasure to share with others.



Make the most of every moment brafab.com | @brafab | #brafabmoments