



SHOP TALK

CHAPLINS



Known as a go-to source for modern designer furniture, Chaplins is now applying its expertise to a dedicated store for outdoor furniture in north-west London. Managing director Simon Chaplin tells us more

Why open an outdoors shop? It's something that we have wanted to do for some time. If you're used to being around well-considered, beautiful design, your appreciation for it doesn't change just because you're outside. We also felt that there wasn't really anywhere to see high-quality classic and contemporary garden furniture in one place.

What will we find in the store? We'll have something for every style and size of garden, from poolside loungers to compact designs for urban balconies. It's about having pieces for the many ways in which people use outdoor spaces. There will be around eight brands, with furniture presented in room sets that we have curated from the hundreds of options in the brand catalogues. The important thing is that people can come and see the furniture and try it out, which is an opportunity that is becoming less frequent these days.

Do you have any favourites? Look out for the Gio and Maxalto collections, both by Antonio Citterio for B&B Italia. They are subtle interpretations of classic style that will work well in British gardens. We'll have an outdoor kitchen from Swedish brand Röhshults, which is a good example of how the garden can be seen as another room and an extension of the house. There will also be pieces from Paola Lenti, which are perfect if you're looking for colour and a more laid-back style.

What trends have you noticed in outdoor furniture? Just as with interiors, outdoor design tends to feed off fashion. People have been playing it quite safe in recent years, but we're noticing a move towards a more eclectic, travelled look, with a focus on warmer, textural materials including wood, copper and woven rope.



Gloster sofa, £3,890; **chaise**, £3,090; **tables**, from £770 (top); **Thonet chairs** (above), £650 each; **Paola Lenti chairs** (left), £1,950 each.

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CROWNING GLORY

The historical treasures of The Portland Collection have a fine new home at the Harley Gallery (right) in Welbeck, Nottinghamshire. Designed by Hugh Broughton Architects, the new 800sq m building has a glazed entrance pavilion and two dramatic gallery spaces. Pieces on display include Michelangelo's rarely seen *Madonna del Silenzio* (c. 1538), on show for the first time in 50 years; the pearl earring worn by Charles I at his execution in 1649; the Portland Tiara by Cartier; and the *Coronation Miniature* (left), a portrait of Queen Elizabeth I by Nicholas Hilliard, which is one of more than 400 miniatures in the collection. Admission is free.

Contact 01909 501 700, harleygallery.co.uk.

