

OFFECCT

*Voices:*

Furniture, passion and entrepreneurs

LUCA NICHETTO:

Over the years, I've frequently travelled from my home in Venice to Sweden. My girlfriend is Swedish, so I've enjoyed visiting Scandinavian countries with her. During those visits, I've developed an interest in Scandinavian manufacturers as it seems that they are increasingly open to working with designers from other countries.

I was attracted to the work of OFFECCT so I got in touch with Anders Englund, the design manager of the company. We arranged an appointment during the Stockholm Furniture Fair in 2007, when I also met co-founder Kurt Tingdal. Immediately, there was a strong connection between us, and we began talking about developing a project together.

At the beginning I proposed various project concepts, among which was a bench made using an innovative technological process developed by an Italian supplier. OFFECCT was immediately interested in that idea, so we started to work on it. After various stages of prototyping, they broke off the project because it proved not to fit with their strict environmental criteria. I must say it was great to see a manufacturer taking these issues so seriously.

The decision to change direction turned out for the better as it made me shift my focus to a new project; that of the *Robo* chair. By that time, important environmental values had earned my full attention.

The structural components of the *Robo* chair are made from a technology that was totally new to us. In fact, the largest challenge was to find a suitable supplier of the technology. It turned out that there were no suppliers in Sweden that wanted to work on this project, as the production was deemed too difficult. Despite this, OFFECCT worked really hard to make the project a reality. We finally found the production solution outside of Scandinavia. My studio and I supported OFFECCT during every stage – we were even involved in the design of the packaging.

Designers and design are strong parts of the OFFECCT culture. You always feel involved in every step of the process, like you are a key part of their team. Working with OFFECCT has taught me to take a more holistic approach to design and as a result, I have really embraced some core values regarding environmental respect and ecology; values that in Italy represent just a trend...

Luca Nichetto is based in Venice, Italy





