

*Its furniture has STOLEN THE HEARTS of design lovers the world over, but SIKA DESIGN has a side that'll woo consumers WITH A CONSCIENCE too*

# STYLE MEETS SUSTAINABILITY



TEXT MILA CREWE-BROWN



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E ALL HAVE SIKA DESIGN to thank for some of the world's most adored chairs. Its Isabell chair, a cult French café perch, is used

in bistros and brasseries across the globe; one glimpse and there's no doubt as to its inspiration. The Chantal high back chair, with its embracing form and endless curves, is a seat that spells comfort. The ever-elegant Belladonna sofa, designed by Italian architect Franco Albini in 1951 and edited under licence by Sika Design, is still a piece that features on wishlists today.

Classic elegance, pale wood, and uncompromising comfort are some of the qualities that have gained the love of the rattan furniture company's customers for decades. Its quintessentially Scandinavian pieces are all about authenticity, craftsmanship, and effortless style, but there's a lot more to the Danish brand than just good looks.

Ankjær Andreasen founded Sika Design in 1940, during the Second World War. It has its roots as a basket-making brand — initially freely available materials, such as grass, willow, and rush were used to weave its baskets — and has never strayed far from weaving. In the 1950s, Adreasen began small a rattan furniture range, sealing the company's future. Seventy-six years have passed, and Sika Design has now reached the third generation: it's run by granddaughter Louise, together with her father Knud, and maintains its focus on producing rattan furniture.

What's most surprising about Sika Design's

products is that they're still handmade. Skilled artisans in Indonesia steam and bend the rattan without the use of heavy machinery — an art form with a long history — which gives the brand an environmental edge. Further sustainability points are gained by the fact that rattan has a growth rate as fast as that of bamboo, and naturally occurs in rainforest undergrowth. Furniture made in Sika Design's Indonesian plant is shipped directly to customers, lowering the company's carbon footprint.

Sika Design takes its social responsibilities

seriously too. The company has an SA8000 certification, which means its working conditions need to meet quality checks for fair practice.

For South Africans, who make outdoor living an art form, Sika Design's furniture has become a firm favourite for its laid-back aesthetic, lasting quality, and natural appeal. Not only is Sika the company that brought us the chairs we so love and desire; in a world where covetable design seldom crosses over with sustainability, Sika Design is also the company that brings integrity to the industry.

[sika-design.com](http://sika-design.com)

