

SQUARE ROOTS

THE SECRETS OF THE FURNITURE ALCHEMISTS



THE VEGA DINING TABLE, BENCH AND SIDEBOARD FEATURE SQUARE ROOTS' SIGNATURE DESIGN AESTHETIC.

Square Roots combine the secrets of the alchemist finisher and the wisdom of the woodsman to craft unique furniture that's rooted in green principles.

Scouring the globe to find the perfect hardwood for his furniture creations has been a mission bordering on obsession for Justin Wheatcroft, co-founder of Square Roots furniture.

But the end-result of the statement pieces he creates with fellow founder Edward Stoddart show the fruits of his labour to be well worth the effort. Pieces such as the Vega Horizontal Sideboard, for example, feature the natural live-edge of the wood allowing the essence of the living tree to shine through in the finished design.

"Sustainability, large diameters, correct kiln drying, beautiful colour and a strong definition between the mature heart-wood and the young sapwood were just some of the qualities I was searching for," Justin tells us.



CO-FOUNDERS EDWARD STODDART AND JUSTIN WHEATCROFT



OUR HIX DINING CHAIRS SIT PERFECTLY WITH THE VEGA DINING TABLE



THE NATURAL GRAIN OF THE WOOD IS CELEBRATED BY SQUARE ROOTS.

"Grown in the upland region of Burgundy, the Oak is perfect for our needs due to the cool climatic conditions and forests that produce harder, heavier timbers"

Edward Stoddart



SQUARE ROOTS SELECTS THE BEST QUALITY FRENCH OAK



FRENCH OAK STORED IN WAREHOUSE

While on his search, Justin met fellow furniture designer Edward Stoddart, an expert finisher and antique furniture restorer, with a deep knowledge of traditional and contemporary wood finishes, gilding and painting.

It didn't take long for their shared interest in solid wood, and a love of design and passion for sustainability

to spark a firm friendship. In 2008 Square Roots was born, with the aim of bringing together their unique combination of skillsets.

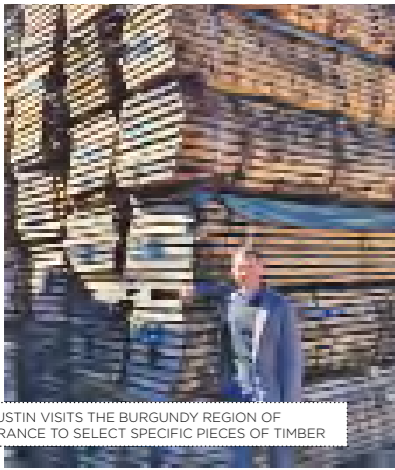
Justin's quest for the perfect hardwood took him from Croatia to Canada - and he found his holy grail in the form of the sturdy French Oak.

Edward explains: "Grown in the upland region of Burgundy, the Oak is perfect for our needs due to the cool climatic conditions and forests that produce harder, heavier timbers.

It has very distinctive grain patterns and a beautiful pale colour, and the wider girths and larger lateral limbs result in a really characterful wood."

Selecting the best quality and most environmentally responsible suppliers enables Square Roots to produce furniture of an exceptional standard.

"We work with two mills that are certified by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) forestry management



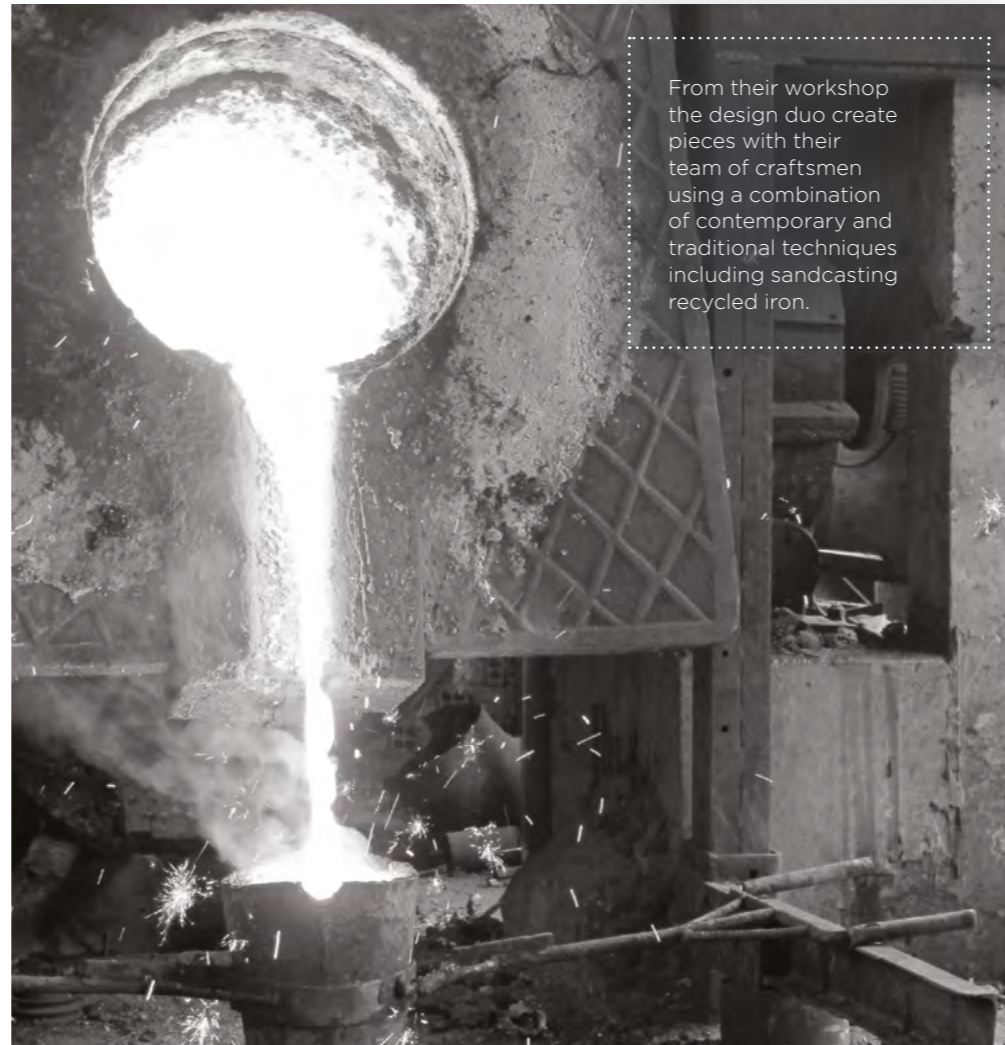
JUSTIN VISITS THE BURGUNDY REGION OF FRANCE TO SELECT SPECIFIC PIECES OF TIMBER



FRENCH OAK TIMBER



MANY SQUARE ROOTS DESIGNS USE RECYCLED METAL WITH SPECIALIST FINISHES



From their workshop the design duo create pieces with their team of craftsmen using a combination of contemporary and traditional techniques including sandcasting recycled iron.



OLD ENGINE BLOCKS, MACHINERY AND DISUSED EQUIPMENT ARE RECYCLED

The process is highly skilled and can produce a great variety of shapes and effects that serve to show the true beauty of the wood.

procuring the best quality timber and having complete confidence in the sustainable management of that timber source," says Edward.

Both designers are inspired by mid-twentieth century designers, in particular master craftsmen such as Hans Wegner and George Nakashima.

Using natural forms and embracing the characteristics of solid hardwood, many designs use large sections of timber in order to obtain the desired, live-edge finish. All of them incorporate variations in grain, colour and texture that make each piece unique.

Square Roots' team of craftsmen use a combination of contemporary and traditional techniques including sandcasting recycled iron.

This involves the collection of old engine blocks, obsolete machines and disused equipment which is melted at over 1,500 degrees in a furnace, before being set in carefully crafted sand moulds.

The process is highly skilled and can produce a great variety of shapes and effects with a raw, organic effect.

Expert finishes developed over years of experimentation are then applied, some of which are based on old recipes handed down by antique restorers, while others are

entirely new developed in the Square Roots factory.

"Oak is very high in tannins, which gives scope for the creation of interesting colours and effects. The alchemy lies in combining these with special chemical preparations, which then react to create many beautiful finishes," says Edward.

The advantage of these processes is that the colour penetrates deep into the wood and won't scratch or rub off over time. Each individual piece has its own unique look, based on the grain patterns and the concentration of the natural tannins present in the timber.

The result of Square Roots' hard work and sustainable ethos is



SKILLED CRAFTSMEN WORK HARD TO CREATE STAND OUT PIECES

a unique collection of beautiful furniture pieces, with style and sustainability at their heart.

Square Roots began with 20 staff producing a small number of pieces of furniture each month.

The company now employs over 250 people and distributes to retailers across Asia, the Americas, Australasia, South Africa, France and the UK, via Barker and Stonehouse.



THE SQUARE ROOTS VEGA COFFEE TABLE - AVAILABLE AT BARKER AND STONEHOUSE

Barker and Stonehouse is a strong supporter of sustainability and is delighted to stock the Square Roots ranges.

To find out more about this range of furniture, visit us in store or online: www.barkerandstonehouse.co.uk