



## OUTSIDE INSIDE

Mazu originates from Sino-Chinese languages and represents a young Belgian company active in the indoor/outdoor sector.

Atmospheric lighting for your shrubs and trees in planters. Forget spike spots. Thinking *outside the box* became *inside the planter*: integrated uplights. The highlight at the Furniture Fair takes it one step further: the Oyster.

The boundaries between indoor and outdoor living continue to blur. We now have lounge furniture, outdoor kitchens – and even showers – outdoor rugs, decoration, and atmospheric lighting. A dark garden deserves more than purely functional light. Spotlights illuminate trees and shrubs planted in the ground or in XXL planters. The next level beyond traditional spike spots is ground-integrated pots for the garden. But for green furniture, spotlights on spikes with visible cables remained the only option. That could be improved.

The light went on — literally. Mazu developed the Ambient Planters: decorative and functional. The lighting is integrated into the upper rim of the planter, with no fixtures or cables on the soil surface. The light beam shines upward from the base of the trunk to the top of the tree, while the plant emits light over 270 degrees. All that remains is a single power cable outside the planter, connected to the power hub.

All Ambient Planters are *Handmade in Europe*. Assembly is carried out by people with a distance to the labour market, in a social workshop. Mazu offers two product lines. The Luxury Planters are made from recycled aluminium and finished with Powdura® ECO, a powder coating containing components of recycled plastic (*rPlastic*), widely used in the yachting industry — a clear statement of quality. The Premium Planters are made of oxidised Corten steel, already featuring its characteristic rust-coloured patina.

Decoration is one thing, but practical accessories matter too. Protective caps and wheels can be fitted under the planter. An insulating foam insert module inside the planter protects the roots against extreme weather conditions. A unique option is a connection point for an automatic irrigation system — far from a luxury in this segment.

And then the Sino-Japanese name. In Japanese, Mazu means “first, the first one,” referring to the innovative roots of the company and its planter concept. In Chinese, Mazu refers to the mythological sea goddess, protector of human life at sea. In this sense, Mazu can be associated with water, sunlight, human life, living greenery, and more. This is how collections receive names such as Nautilus. The Oyster is a truly distinctive piece: a subtle line of light encircles the planter, while the uplighter rises above it.