

Places To Gather

Last year, Belgian architect and designer Vincent Van Duysen partnered with Zara Home to launch Zara Home+, a collection of furniture and accessories for the living room. This year, the duo have partnered for a second collection that takes the dining room—a space of gathering and tradition—as its focus. To mark the release, Van Duysen reflects on his process of distilling intimate memories into joyful, versatile pieces.



Portrait by Zeb Daemen.

WHAT IS THE ETHOS OF THIS COLLECTION? It's about time and traveling down memory lane. The goal was to translate my DNA into a full program, hearkening back to the last 30 years of my work. The starting point for this challenging exercise was to revisit the key elements that defined my signature, distill [the] shapes and forms, and instill purity into these new creations.

DID YOU FIND INSPIRATION IN OTHER FORMS OF VISUAL ART, FILMS, OR TEXTS? I am like a sponge absorbing the most diverse disciplines. Everything has the potential to inspire me: a documentary, images on Instagram, books, galleries, movies... It's all filtered through my empathy and my imagination. That's how I create. But I'm most creative when surrounded

by people. Daily encounters are what inspire me the most. And my travels. And my team!

HOW DO YOU MAKE SURE YOUR PIECES STAND THE TEST OF TIME? At the core, there's organic material and shapes, tactile and textured pieces, and clean, pure lines.

YOU USED OAK, ASH, JUTE,

COTTON, AND LIMESTONE IN THIS COLLECTION. WHAT DREW YOU TO THESE MATERIALS? First of all, they have texture, warmth, and character, and they age well with time. They are all natural and sourced locally. We like to collect the scraps—solid oak, for example—and upcycle them for smaller pieces such as candle holders or plate servers.