

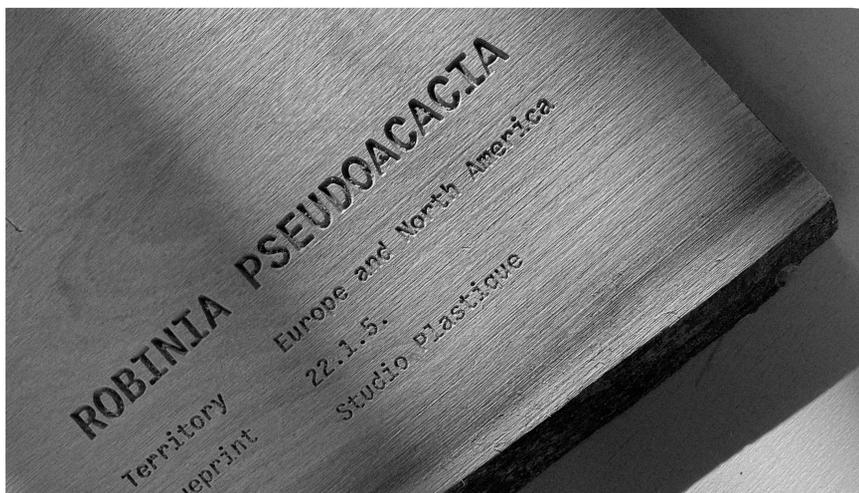
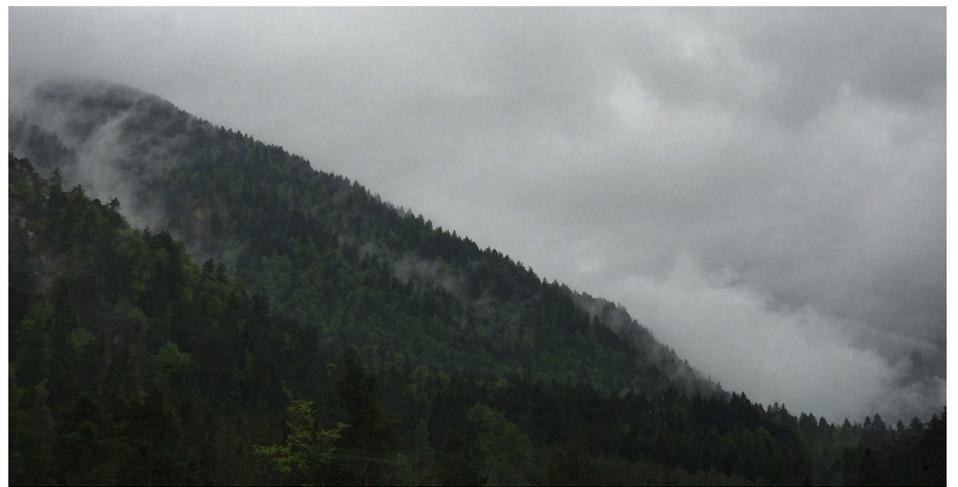


THE DESIGNER

Theresa Bastek and Archibald Godts founded Studio Plastique in 2017 in Brussels after graduating from Design Academy Eindhoven. Their work combines imaginative scenarios and critical reflections with in-depth investigations of complex material supply chains and technological infrastructures, thus pushing the boundaries of what design aims to achieve. Studio Plastique builds up networks of collaboration around significant themes for contemporary society, strategically positioning the role of the designer in an evolving landscape of industry, culture, and human experience.

THE CONTEXT

The forest is an ecosystem of balanced diversity. This diversity generates a range of products that can be harvested from the forest sustainably, if we embrace this potential. The opposite scenario, planting trees in the form of plantations, disturbs the balance, leaving those environments prone to pests, diseases but also vulnerable to naturally occurring influences from the climate. Current timber trade and timber industry process only a selective range of species for their purposes. This selection is highly influenced by the demand - fashionable, practical or exclusive - leaving behind vast quantities of excellent wood to be turned into paper in the best case.



Designers and architects are trained with knowledge on a small selection of timber species only, notwithstanding the convenience of currently lesser used wood types. Additionally it is industrially more convenient working with a consistent flow of material and stable technical properties. Changing processes, tooling or machine settings often can be costly. As a result consumers expect a standardised industrial product and forget about the available diversity and varying qualities of a natural product. It is an appreciation that is force-fed by our industrialised and standardised economies. With our design proposal for Bos+ we would like to contribute to an alternative perspective on wood scenarios. Through our collaboration with wood trader Vercruyse, we aim to highlight these problematics on the one hand and on the other propose diversified scenarios.

THE DESIGN

+52 is a wooden step stool, a functional item offering additional height or serving as an impromptu seat. +52 is not designed to exist in one type of wood. Instead the object is conceived as a scenario that can accommodate a multitude of local or global wood essences and their inherent properties. Modular thickness safeguards the strength and warping properties of the wood whilst playing with weight and aesthetic variances in the colours and textures of the wood species. The project proposes to challenge and reconsider the use of overexploited wood species and make more sustainable choices - aesthetically, economically and ecologically.

