

# METROPOLIS

ARCHITECTURE AND  
DESIGN AT ALL SCALES  
January 2017

TODAY'S LEADERS  
IN DESIGN

WORKac  
Architecture Lobby  
Jerry Helling  
ReUrbano  
Ralph Knowles

Amale Andraos  
in WORKac's studio

## Game Changers





# ANATOMY

## The Power of the Outdoors

The vice president of design and marketing at Landscape Forms discusses the features of the Go Outdoor Table, a piece of furniture with integrated technology to support both work and play outside.

By Kirt Martin

**01** Every bit of our energy has been focused on understanding outdoor spaces and how they can help people, whether they're learning, working, traveling, caring, or playing. It's our responsibility to create furniture that supports people and the technology that they want to use. We wanted to make a product that could be successful on corporate and college campuses or within transit or health-care applications. This table can provide lighting and power; it can have a canopy or not; it can be on or off the grid.

**02** The table and canopy are made with aluminum extrusions and castings. The extrusion is hollow, like an airplane wing, and you can run wires through it. The thin uprights are filled with batteries. It's all invisible, and there are no exposed fasteners. Aluminum dissipates heat better than even wood. So you can put this in Arizona and you're not going to burn yourself if you put your hands on it. Our products have to survive outside for years, so we apply an environmental coating and then powder-coat them.



**03** The canopy element acts as a spatial anchor—people feel more comfortable in wide-open spaces if they have something to anchor themselves to. The structure is not about snow or rain protection; it's about reducing glare on personal devices. But it can also serve as an attractor to outdoor spaces.

**04** We put a lot of money into the little power garage because it has to pass codes all over the country. One of the things that the box does is that it closes automatically—the minute you plug in, a cover drops down. It's weather- and corrosion-resistant.

**05** The solar panel on top is really critical because the table is now decoupled from codes, from trenching lines, from electricians. You basically could put it in a field and it would work. It won't power your toaster oven, but it will power your phones and personal devices. The panel itself is really cool because you can puncture it, put holes through it, shoot it with bullets, and it still works. It's very durable. ■