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## ANATOMY Picnic on the Beach

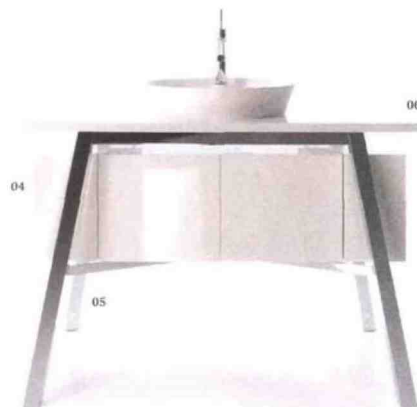
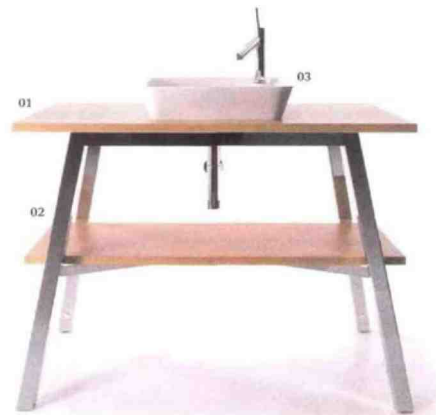
The president of Duravit USA takes us through the ins and outs of the Cape Cod collection designed by Philippe Starck.

By Tim Schroeder

**01** This was a concept that Starck wanted to design for himself. The inspiration came from his beach property—the idea was to bring a little bit of the indoors out and the outdoors in. That's why it's called Cape Cod—the driftwood, the outdoors, the natural beauty. It is very whimsical and charming. It's very Starck.

**02** It reminds a lot of people of a picnic table with those legs—it's just the basic archetypal shape of a table that you would find outside. With the natural wood shelves, it feels very familiar. Starck has a unique way of bringing commonality to design. You sense that you recognize this product, but you've never seen it before.

**03** We're using a material called DuraCeram that allows you to make a very thin edge on the basin. It has a high tensile strength. Now, you're not going to be wielding barbells and such—although my wife does her exercise routine in our bathroom—but your electric razor, hair dryer, or perfume bottle are things that could scratch the product. That's always a consideration when we're designing—it has to be durable and sustainable. Because if you think about it, when was the last time you remodeled your bathroom?



**04** With the structure of the storage underneath, it takes on almost the look of a credenza. It's not unusual for the toilet or the tub to be on the side of the vanity, so we have a little extra storage there. You don't understand when you see it straight on, but then you discover these little cubbies. It does have a lot of little nice surprises in it.

**05** The other thing you may not realize is the tabletop is held off the wall. The legs are splayed, so while there are contact points at the bottom that allow you to fix the table to the wall, the top is held off of it. You don't have a hard-to-clean moisture trap at that edge—I suspect you'll see people using wallpaper and other things they would have usually been cautious about around the basin.

**06** There are five finishes in the shelf version. You have the vintage oak, American walnut, white beech, European oak, and white gloss. The vintage oak is about two inches thick, the rest are an inch. The charming and unique part of the vintage-oak version is that the front has the natural shape of the wood. Starck talks about being inspired by driftwood, and the shape of every countertop is unique. To me, that's the coup de grâce of this collection. ■