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Kristalia, Italy/Fanuli Furniture, Sydney

Selected company portfolio: Boum, Fifty, Dizzy

INTERVIEW BY TOM LAZARUS

**How long have you been designing?** Since 1999.

**What inspires you?** Jazz and technology. I love to take new materials and use technology to see how we can adapt them to furniture.

**What's the first bar interior you remember liking?** Ice Bar in Milan. I was amazed by it, as everything was done in ice.

**Your office is burning down. What do you save?** A box with original hand drawings and designs in it by Carlo Bartoli. Carlo still does all his original drawings in pencil and it is the same pencil he has had for the last 20 years.

**Do you have a favourite designer/architect?** Castiglione – he has passed away, but his designs are timeless. I love working with Carlo Bartoli, a very big name in Italy. Many of the other new young designers, such as Luca Nichetto and Monica Graffeo are also great to work with, as they are uninhibited. This allows Kristalia to work with them and create a wonderful collaboration. These two new young designers are now becoming famous in their own right.

**If you couldn't design you'd... be marketing** for furniture companies, as I was doing before Kristalia.

**What has been your favorite project so far?** The Fifty table – It has 264 different parts in it and uses very complicated technology to produce. It's a good example of the more challenging projects that I enjoy.

**Finish this sentence. The bar industry needs more...** character in interior design. And friendly staff.

**And less...** Chinese copied furniture.

**Give us a bar recommendation. Royalto Bar** in Milan. It has a great interior and warm, friendly staff that make you feel special and want to stay all night.

**What's your poison?** Red wine – Cabernet.

**Tell us your favourite holiday destination.** My home in Treviso, Italy. I travel a lot and enjoy relaxing at home. It is also easier at the moment, because I have a nine month old daughter. I really enjoyed Sydney and would love to come back with my family to holiday.

**What are you working on at the moment?** A new dining table.

**Do you have a favourite object at home?** An abstract painting by Gottuso. I also love my jazz collection.

**How would you characterise design in your home town at the moment?** Conservative. The Treviso region in Italy is mainly known for its more conservative designs.

**What's on your stereo?** '60s and '70s jazz. The music is like great design; the more you listen, the more you appreciate it.

**Trainers or shoes?** Trainers – I am always on the go.

**Give an example of a risk you took, either professionally or personally.** Designing and manufacturing the Boum chair. This chair was a big risk, as it required a large investment to produce it without knowing if it would be successful. Personally – changing wives.

**The best part of your job is...** Intellectual independence.