
A Journal

The history of steel
kitchens.



ABIMIS

EGO_25 di Abimis
foto ambientata, photo set



Steel: a 2,000-year story.

From the ancient swords of Damascus to modern designer kitchens, passing through the Brooklyn Bridge...

We all know that steel is a very high performance metal alloy: strong and durable, flexible and resistant, light and stainless. But perhaps not everyone knows about **the history and evolution of steel**. A story that dates back over 2,000 years. Although today's steel is the result of important evolutionary processes and its characteristics (and performance) are very different from those of the past, in ancient times it had an ancestor that was so hard it was said to be able to cut any other metal!



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DID YOU KNOW? THE TERM STEEL ALSO INCLUDES VERY DIFFERENT ALLOYS, BASED ON THE TYPE OF PROCESSING AND THE "MIX" OF INGREDIENTS. STAINLESS STEEL AS WE UNDERSTAND IT TODAY IS AN ALLOY OF IRON AND CARBON, WITH THE ADDITION OF OTHER METALS (MAINLY CHROMIUM AND NICKEL) WHICH MAKE IT PARTICULARLY HARD AND RESISTANT TO CORROSION.

When was steel born?



DAMASCUS STEEL

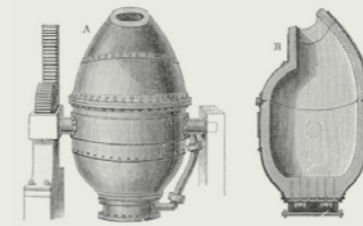
Despite being very different from today's steel, it was a material already known in ancient times. Around the 5th century B.C., the famous **Wootz steel**, or **Damascus steel**, was forged. An alloy renowned for its exceptional hardness and resistance qualities, its elaborate production process was only known to a select few skilled craftsmen. This made it a very rare and valuable material, which was used in the production of swords, mainly for noblemen or royals.

Over time, steel-forging techniques evolved greatly, but continued to have an artisan type nature. That was until the advent of the Industrial Revolution.

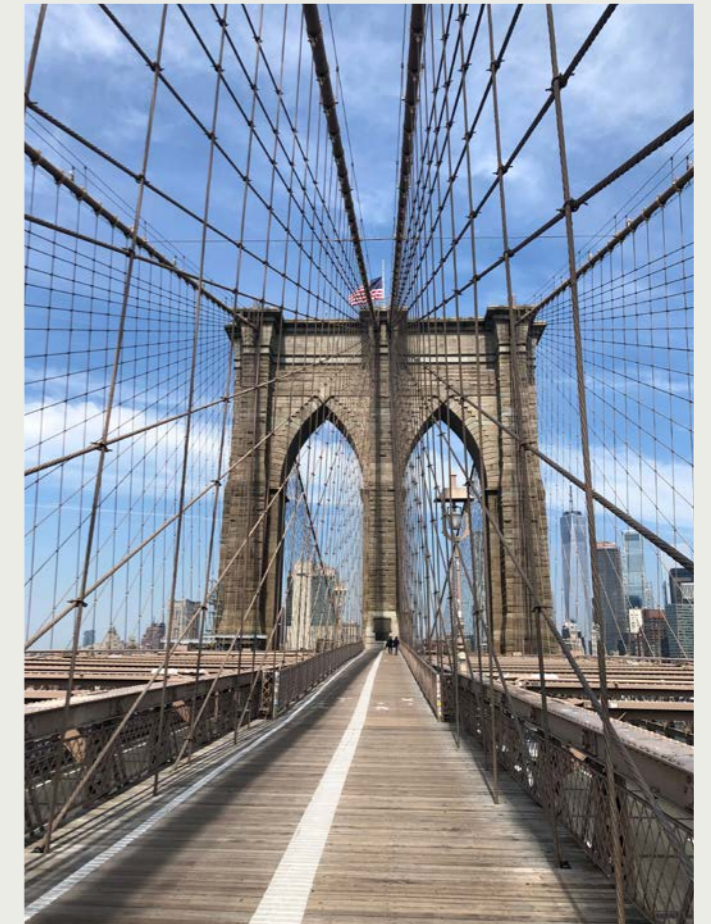


INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

Steel began to be produced on a large scale in 19th century England. This meant that large quantities of it could be produced at relatively low costs.



With the birth of the first steelworks in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, architecture and engineering developed in a way that was previously unthinkable. The strength, resistance, durability and rust resistance of steel allowed it to go beyond the limits imposed by the materials used until then.



Brooklyn Bridge

Just think of the Brooklyn Bridge (1883) held by 4 steel cables with a diameter of 28 cm each! Or the steel structure that supports the 102 storeys (over 400 metres) of the Empire State Building. Built in just one year, between 1930 and 1931, it was the tallest skyscraper in the world. Steel had become the symbol of an era of progress.



Empire State Building



1. Steel in furnishing.

There's nothing like **STAINLESS STEEL**
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The Aristocrat of all Metal Kitchen equipment. Easy clean tops, silent sliding doors, spacious cupboards and drawers, make the Elizabeth Ann so popular with housewives. One of the series of 10 will suit you. Call at your local Stockists today or write direct for illustrated brochure.

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The use of steel in furnishing dates back to the first half of the 20th century, particularly in the Bauhaus in Weimar, Germany. Here the designers began to question how to exploit this innovative product also in home furnishings. The goal was to bring into homes the same elements of modernity, lightness and functionality that had revolutionised the world of architecture.



THE BAUHAUS

Curved tubular steel furniture was born in the 1920s in Germany, made famous by the visionary designers of the time gathered around the Bauhaus school.

A few examples are:

- The famous Wassily chair, or model B3, designed in 1925 by Marcel Breuer.



- The Cantilever Chair by Mart Stam, created in 1926. Without rear legs it was an example of bold design thanks to its steel structure: light, flexible and resistant. An iconic model, also taken from other great masters of the Bauhaus, including Marcel Breuer and Ludwig Mies Van Der Rohe.



- The Barcelona lounge chair in chrome steel and leather, designed in 1929 by Mies Van Der Rohe, still an icon of modern design.



These are just three of the many steel furniture items still produced today, a century later! Tables and coffee tables, armchairs, lamps and many furnishing accessories replaced the wood or iron structure with steel over that period. First for functional reasons, then also (and increasingly) for aesthetic reasons. In fact, stainless steel, especially in its chrome-plated finish, emphasised the idea of modernity and luxury. For this reason it was one of the privileged materials, even in the Art Déco period (between the 1920s and 1930s), for the creation of furniture and art objects. Its shine and ability to be modelled into various shapes made it perfect to represent a new more modern and elegant furnishing style. Not only in the living room, but also in the kitchen.



ATELIER_58 PROFESSIONAL di Abimis
Venezia, casa privata



2. Steel enters the kitchen.

THE USE OF STEEL IN INDUSTRIAL AND PROFESSIONAL KITCHENS

The introduction of steel into the kitchen is closely linked to growing industrialisation and the need to use increasingly resistant, rust-free and, above all, hygienic materials. The arrival of steel in kitchens, marks another fascinating chapter in its evolution. With the rapid growth of the food and restaurant industries, steel proved to be the most suitable element for industrial and professional kitchens.



From restaurant and hotel kitchens, which were growing increasingly in number in fin de siècle Europe, the old iron or cast iron stoves disappeared, being replaced by more modern and functional steel cookers. The professional chefs of the time began to appreciate stainless steel for its durability and resistance to wear and tear, humidity and extreme temperatures. But above all because of the ease of cleaning, which is essential for maintaining the necessary hygiene conditions.



EGO_23 di Abimis
Lignano Sabbiadoro, casa privata

STEEL FINALLY ENTERS DOMESTIC KITCHENS

Given the practicality and functionality of industrial steel kitchens, some cooking enthusiasts also started to want them in their own homes. But it is only since World War II that the popularity of steel in the kitchen began to grow significantly, also for domestic use.

This was a time of great change in society, in technology and in terms of experimenting with new materials. Also in the home.

The rise in living standards meant that more and more attention was paid to quality, performance and, of course, to the ease of cleaning furniture, throughout the home and especially in the kitchen. It was in the 1950s and 1960s that steel kitchens spread very rapidly in American homes. It was a symbol of wealth and style, modernity and progress.



Ego Slide: The kitchen Ego, designed by Alberto Torsello for Abimis, is actually inspired by 1960s kitchens. It can be distinguished by its soft and rounded lines, both in the flush doors without hinges and all the corners.



MODERN STAINLESS STEEL KITCHENS

Since the 1970s, with the explosion of designer furniture, kitchens have undergone several style evolutions too. But stainless steel has remained, and is still today, one of the privileged materials for manufacturing high-quality domestic kitchens. In many cases it is combined with other materials (mainly stone, marble and wood) to integrate and coordinate the kitchen with the style of the house.

But more and more often, thanks to the evolution of processing techniques, “clean” steel is preferred. Not only for practical and functional reasons (resistance, hygiene, ease of maintenance), but also for aesthetic reasons. In fact, the strength and beauty of steel can create interesting contrasts with furnishings, increase the brightness of the room or enhance the kitchen as a sculptured object. In addition, steel can be treated with natural, mirror-polished or matte finishes (hand-orbitally polished or ‘scotch-brite’ satin finishes).

EGO_21 di Abimis
Monaco, casa privata



Abimis stainless steel kitchens.

ABIMIS WAS BORN IN 2013 BASED ON THE EXPERIENCE OF PRISMA, A COMPANY THAT HAS BEEN PRODUCING PROFESSIONAL STAINLESS STEEL KITCHENS FOR THE BEST RESTAURANTS FOR OVER 40 YEARS

Abimis exclusively produces AISI 304 stainless steel kitchens for domestic use. Abimis kitchens are of a very high standard and are all custom made by hand. They are semi-professional kitchens (also known as 'professional-derived' kitchens), which combine the performance of the best professional kitchens (those used by chefs, so to speak) with a minimal and extremely refined design.



Abimis kitchens are a perfect blend of design and performance, functionality and strength. They are designed especially for domestic use and are perfectly suited to all kinds of homes.

Download our journals too:

- [How to \(and why\) choose a professional kitchen for domestic use](#)
- [How to clean stainless steel kitchens](#)

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BEFORE PURCHASING A STAINLESS STEEL KITCHEN, ALWAYS CHECK THAT THE STEEL IS AISI 304 OR AISI 316 STAINLESS STEEL (THE LATTER IS MORE RESISTANT TO CHLORINE AND SALT AND THEREFORE MORE SUITABLE FOR OUTDOOR KITCHENS BY THE SEA, POOLSIDE OR INSTALLED ON YACHTS).

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Monaco, casa privata



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