2008



THONET

Design Stefan Diez





Stefan Diez, born in 1971 in Freising (Germany). After taking courses in architecture and training to be a carpenter, he studied industrial design at the Academy of Formative Arts in Stuttgart from 1996 to 2002. For a short period he was employed as an assistant to Richard Sapper and then to Konstantin Grcic in Munich. In January 2003, he opened his own studio in Munich where he works in the areas of product and exhibition design. His clients include Authentics, Biegel, Flötotto, Merten, Moroso, Schönbuch, Thonet and Wilkhahn. His work has received numerous awards, including several Red Dot Awards, iF product design awards and special prizes for material innovations. Stefan Diez was and is represented in a variety of exhibitions in museums and within the framework of trade fairs. He is regarded as one of the most innovative and promising designers of the younger generation in Germany which already enjoys a good reputation at international level. In 2008 he was awarded for the third time with the designprize of the Federal Republic of Germany.



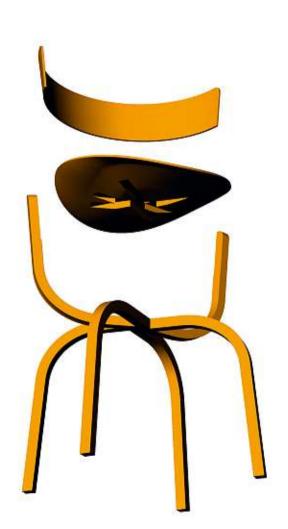






Stefan Diez has designed a range of wooden chairs for Thonet which is in line with the bentwood-legacy of the family company but transforms it entirely as regards aesthetic and technological criteria. Bent chair legs and armrests merge in a "knot" and are recessed into the underside of the seat. New moulded plywood technology permits the requisite reinforcement of the seat in the centre accompanied by drastic reduction and deformation towards the edges making the seat a constructive and extremely distinctive moulded element.

"I was looking for a new idea for connecting the seat and the frame as I don't think Thonet stands for 'screws and plugs'. And that's why the knot connection does without a frame or screws." Stefan Diez









A high degree of seat comfort, distinctive contours and clever details are what distinguish the 404 range. It appears lightweight both in terms of material and construction and is therefore reminiscent of the historic bentwood models. The seat gives the impression of being fitted like a slim panel. With its splayed legs — made possible by the large radii of the leg and back cantilevers — the range conveys a feeling of comfort which it also offers: no specific seat position is designated. Comfort is also provided by the elegant, moulded backrest which gives pleasantly when you lean back.



Wood is a natural material typical for Thonet.

The seat and backrest elements consist of moulded plywood, the leg and backrest bars are made of gluelam; various stains are available. Other materials are not used. The chairs are produced in an ecofriendly way.





Tables complement the program. As of autumn 2008 models in various versions will be available. Formally, the connection with the chairs becomes obvious in the typical curves of the table legs.



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Thonet GmbH Michael-Thonet-Straße 1 D-35066 Frankenberg Telefon +49 -6451-508-119 Telefax +49 -6451-508-128 info@thonet.eu www.thonet.eu