

Press release 04/2022

Making the Future Sustainable

Yonda Range, model 320

Created by: neunzig°design

Seven decades ago, the shell-structure chair ranges made of fiberglass-reinforced polyester, created by Georg Leowald for Wilkhahn, were considered examples of pioneering furniture design. Wilkhahn's new Yonda range, conceived by neunzig°design, is an example of an archetypal shell-structure chair with diverse design options that's now just as comfortable as it is sustainable. The material it's made of and surface finishes are also exceptionally planet friendly.

Bad Münde, Germany, April 2022. Innovation is deeply embedded in Wilkhahn's corporate culture. In addition to concept and process engineering innovations, it constantly strives to find new design solutions by using innovative materials. In the 1950s and 1960s, it was, above all, fiberglass-reinforced plastic that tapped into new design opportunities and aesthetics. The fiberglass-reinforced plastic shell chairs, created by architect, lecturer, and furniture designer Georg Leowald, were bestsellers and played a big role in establishing Wilkhahn as a pioneer of seminal furniture design. However, hazardous substances are used to make fiberglass-reinforced plastics and inhalation of their fibers can pose a health risk. Therefore, the adoption of a more ecological mindset at Wilkhahn sealed the end of the era of fiberglass-reinforced plastics back in 1989. Yonda, created by neunzig°design, is the epitome of a spacious shell chair, but made with a healthier, more eco friendly biocomposite.



Beyond furniture – Yonda marries ergonomic comfort with a variety of models and an innovative use of materials. Some 70% of the seat shell is made of recycled plastic and 30% of waste wood. Created by: neunzig°design, photos: Wilkhahn

Contemporary design and superior comfort

The sculptural armrest pads that slope gently downward at the front and the spacious seat shell with its 10° backward tilt are seamless parts of the shell's contour. As a result, the distinctive shell still looks stylish and dynamic. At the same time, the armrests fit underneath the table edge to allow the chairs to be placed close to tables. Even without upholstery, the through-dyed cream white, black, gray, gray-beige, emerald green or sienna red seat shells, which are slightly speckled as is typical of the material, are very comfortable. An upgrade with a felt pad, seat cushioning or full padding on the inside is also possible. If required, the seat cushioning also comes with a distinctive Y-shaped depression as a reference to the first letter of the range's name.



Without upholstery, with a felt pad, or with padding on the inside or on the seat and a distinctive Y-shaped depression, Yonda's seat shell offers exceptional comfort whatever the variant. Created by: neunzig°design, photos: Wilkhahn

Lots of frames for lots of settings

The designers came up with a four-leg frame made of solid oak with a natural, oiled finish for areas where a special home-like appeal is required. The cross-section of the tapered legs, which splay out, is a semi-oval shape. Set at an angle under the seat, tapering towards each other and anchored in the seat bearer, they look like specially shaped branches of wood. On the other hand, the four-leg frame made of round steel tubing splays out and is bent at the rear. This lends the chair a stylish, dynamic look. A color-matched, textured matte finish, or environmentally friendly bright chrome plating, make this version ideal for versatile conference spaces or cafeterias. Swivel-mounted versions with an organically molded four-star base made of die-cast aluminum are a good choice when more comfort and pep are required for meetings. They are optionally available on glides or casters too.

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Yonda four-leg chair with solid wood legs splayed out underneath the seat and a cream white seat shell for a model that wouldn't look out of place in homes. Created by: neunzig°design, photo Wilkhahn.



Yonda four-leg chair in gray with stylishly splayed-out tubular steel frame and leather-covered padding on the inside plus extra seat cushioning. Created by: neunzig°design, photo Wilkhahn.

A custom-developed spring mechanism provides a three-dimensional rocking function as an option. This can also be applied to the models with precision-adjustable height via a gas lift with five-star aluminum bases on casters. Consequently, in home offices, co-working spaces or project rooms, Yonda's a handy chair that blends in with other seating at dining or conference tables and can be moved about as required. The aluminum base frames also come in the same colors as the shell or with a high-luster polish.



Height-adjustable Yonda task chair with 3D rocking capability and an emerald green shell, in which the pieces of wood are visible as fine speckles. Created by: neunzig°design, photo Wilkhahn.



Yonda task chair on casters in sienna red and with seat cushioning that has Y-shaped furrows in this case. Created by: neunzig°design, photo Wilkhahn.

Beyond furniture, Yonda garners the Red Dot Best of the Best Award

Thanks to its pioneering design, the brand-new chair range wins the Red Dot Award's Best of the Best in the product design category. Yonda scored top marks on all design criteria. The prestigious panel of judges was impressed by its sustainable biocomposite material, the stylish but dynamic design of the seat shell and the range of models for all sorts of settings.



Yonda's many designs, make the already award-winning shell-structure chair an on-trend for both offices and homes. Created by: neunzig°design, photos: Wilkhahn

Sustainable from the start

Wilkhahn liaised with neunzig°design during the development phase to ensure that materials were renewable or recyclable and processes environmentally friendly. The unitary seat shell is made of food-safe, through-dyed, recyclable biocomposite, 70% of which consists of post-consumer recycled polypropylene and 30% of locally sourced waste wood. These two are combined to produce a material that's just as solid as it is elastic. The cushioning is also ecological. The optional felt pad is based on wool and the upholstery element for the seat cushioning on plywood, which is enclosed in molded polyurethane foam (PUR) without any adhesives. The thin inside shell is fashioned as a replaceable upholstery element for the PUR padding on the inside and made of the same biocomposite as the seat shell.

Wilkhahn also specified that mono-fraction sorting, recyclability, and repair friendliness were top priorities for the base frames. They are made of FSC-compliant, solid oak with a natural oiled finish, tubular steel produced using a solvent-free, powder-coated, or eco friendly ChromiumIII process, or powder-coated or ultra polished die-cast aluminum with a concealed, integrated swivel-mounted column made of tubular steel, or with a gas lift. These are materials that have already been recycled and can be again.

Anyone requiring sustainable fabric covers can choose between a wool fabric (re-wool) and a fabric based on recycled materials (Oceanic). Re-wool isn't just renewable of course, but 45% of it is made of scrap wool left over from the

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manufacturer's production line. The outstandingly hard wearing Oceanic is made entirely of post-consumer, recycled polyester, with 50% from SEAQUAL® yarns, which are produced from plastic debris floating in our oceans. Once it's reached the end of its useful life as a cover, it can be recycled again.

As a result, Yonda underscores our standing as a design and environmental pioneer. We combine first-class, long-lasting seating-furniture design for a diverse range of office spaces and homes with seminal materials and processes that boost an eco-friendly circular economy.

The range is available from May 2022.

<https://neunzig-grad.com/>

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