

Wilkhahn



YONDA

In the 1950s and 1960s, it was, above all, fiberglass-reinforced plastic that opened up 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. And they became a symbol of a whole generation's spirit of optimism. Page from an old catalogue with shell chairs by Georg Leowald.



Beyond Furniture

Designers and architects have long realized that good design has a positive impact on people's well-being, as well as their ability to work and live together. Today, neuroscientific findings have proved that this is the case.

Like no other item of furniture, chairs can make us feel healthier, more contented and bring us together with other human beings. A chair can provide support, relaxation, foster movement and indicate appreciation of the person sitting on it.

Which is why Wilkhahn's concept was that the product had to follow the idea seven decades ago when we joined forces with architects and designers to make the places we live and work in better and better. The extensive and versatile shell-structure chair ranges were typical examples. These ushered in a new era of furniture design in the spirit of the Bauhaus and post-war modernism.

“We want to create products that are neither sought after nor frivolous nor following some short-lived fad, but contribute to the culture of their time.”

(From Wilkhahn's product development guidelines)



Wilkhahn's fiberglass-reinforced plastic shell-structure chairs were exceptionally attractive and important chapters in modern furniture history. In 1989, production was halted for environmental reasons. The precursor to Yonda – Leowald's shell-structure chair, model 242/5, photo: Florian Harrlandt.

Making the Future Sustainable

Long before being green became mainstream, Wilkhahn established the foundations of responsible furniture design. It specified that design, usage quality and materials needed to be durable. Further criteria included the ability to repair furniture, decrease any negative impact on the planet and dispense with materials that harm the environment and recycling.



The change in the ecological approach, subsequently awarded with the German Environmental Prize by the German Environmental Foundation, brought fiberglass-reinforced plastic furniture manufacture to a halt in 1989.

We're delighted to present a pioneering shell-structure chair range that reinterprets this traditional chair type for hybrid living and working environments that reflect the requirements of tomorrow's world. It comes with a modern shape, outstanding comfort and a wide range of versatile models. The materials it's made of respond to the demands of a circular economy too. It's a range that whets our appetite for the future.



Seat shells and upholstery options combine with different frame shapes to produce a whole host of chair models. These chairs are ideal as dining tables for homes, conference and meeting tables in the workplace, in libraries, hotels and cafeterias, home offices or co-working spaces. **Yonda by neunzig° design**






Superb Chairs for Homes and Offices

Shell chairs are on-trend options for both offices and homes. They are comfortable and the epitome of contemporary industrial design.

The designers gave Yonda a seminal shell shape and superior comfort. The sculptural armrests that slope gently downward at the front are seamless parts of the shell's contour. As a result, the spacious shell looks appealing and stylish. The chairs can be placed at tables, therefore saving a lot of space.




In the interests of exceptional comfort, the rear of the seat shell with its backward tilt isn't just higher than usual, but curved inward to make it very comfortable for backs. Last, but not least, the shell is crafted from a biocomposite made of recycled plastic and wood waste. It can also be recycled again once the furniture has reached the end of its useful life. Consequently, the chair's kinder to the planet and the material's natural speckles give it a velvety look. It's a perfect mix of a contemporary aesthetic, ergonomics, and sustainability.



To provide both support and take the strain off backs, the slight curve of the backrest mirrors the natural S-shape of the spine.

When it comes with rocking capability, the seat shell also lowers itself to the comfortable backward tilt so typical of the other frame variants.

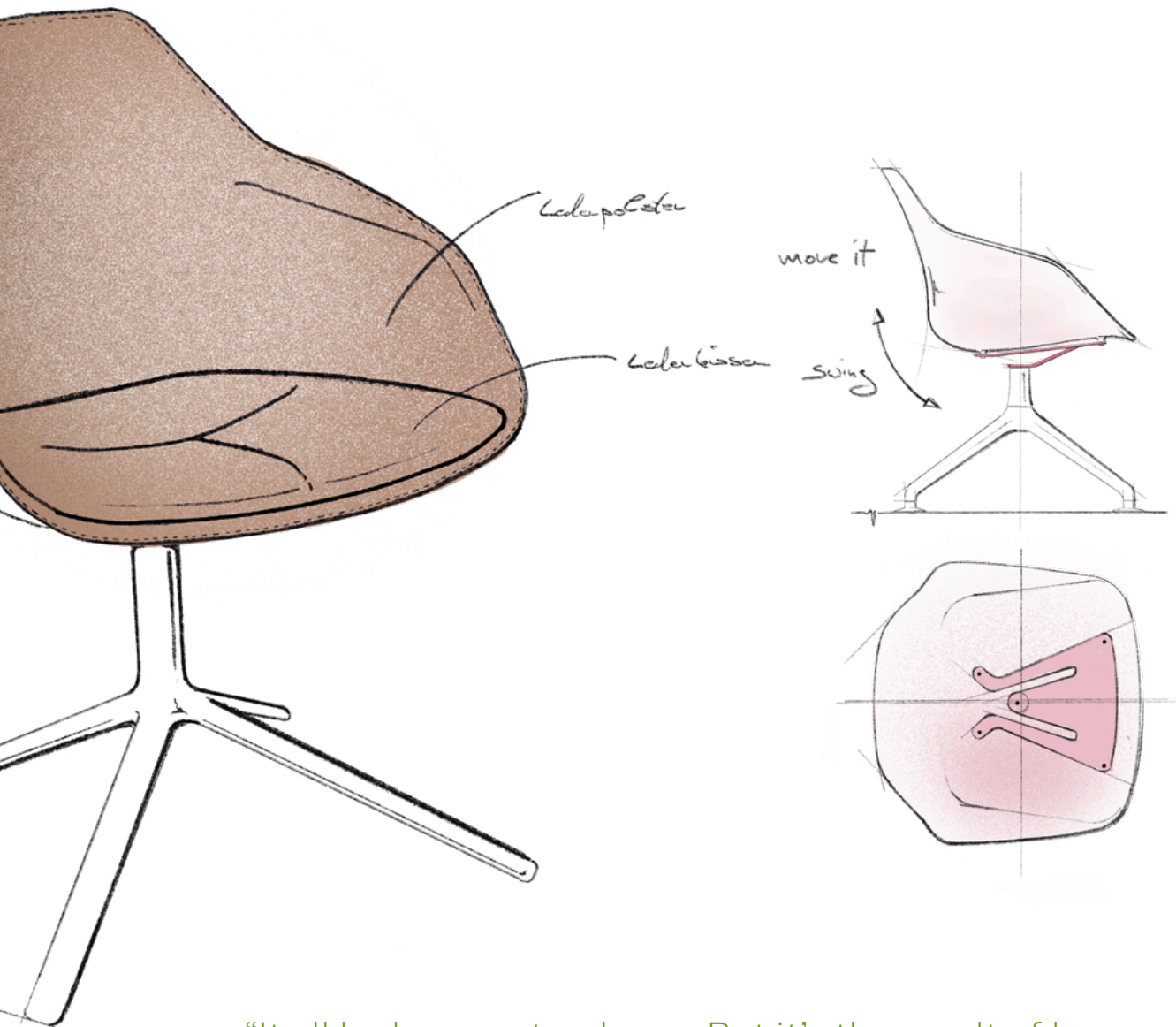
The models with four- and five-star aluminum base frames are swivel mounted to foster a greater range of motion while people are sitting on them. Cleverly, an optional 3D rocking function automatically encourages users to change posture.



The comfortable armrests emerge from the fluid contour of the shell and provide support when users stand up.

The special, attractive design of the rocking mechanism made of high-performance steel offers not just a springy backward tilt but also elasticity at the sides, so that joints and muscles are stimulated in all sorts of ways.





“It all looks so natural now. But it’s the result of hours of deliberation about the best combination of form and function. We managed to incorporate Wilkhahn’s demanding requirements for high-quality design, ergonomics and environmental responsibility and came up with Yonda. The upshot is a piece of furniture that whets our appetite for more of its kind. It was a project that we took pride in bringing to a successful conclusion.”

Barbara Funk + Rainer Weckenmann, neunzig° design



Attention to Detail ...

The range of chair frames are indicative of the quest to find the perfect form. The tapered legs on the attractive, solid oak four-star bases look like specially shaped pieces of wood. On the other hand, the four-leg frame made of round steel tubing with its bent rear legs looks very delicate yet dynamic. Swivel-mounted versions with molded four-star bases made of die-cast aluminum are a good choice when more comfort and pep are required.

And the aluminum five-star base on casters with its precision-adjustable height is a perfect match for the Yonda shell. Consequently, Yonda is a good chair to work on in homes, co-working spaces or project offices that goes superbly with any other chairs at dining or conference tables.

...and the quest to find the perfect form.

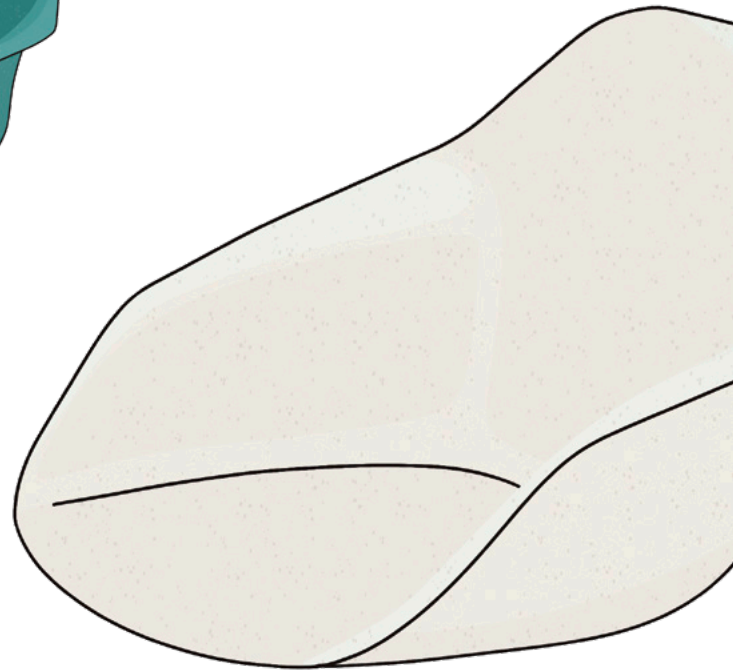
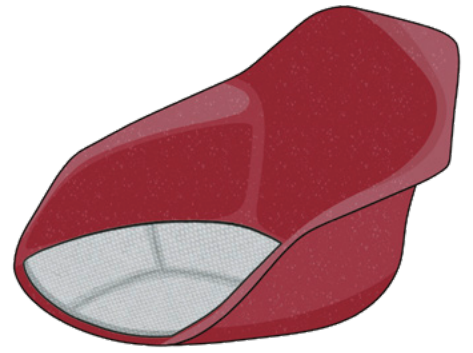
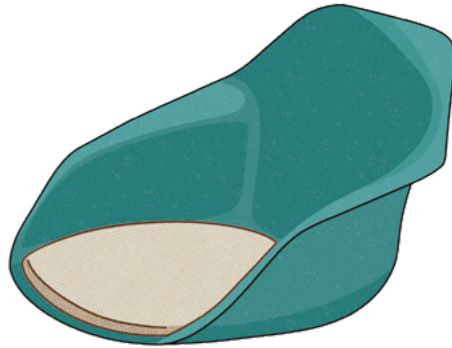






The chair models can be mixed and matched with one another to allow maximum versatility. As a result, Yonda chairs are welcome companions whatever the setting.





Shell in 6 colors
and 5 types of upholstery

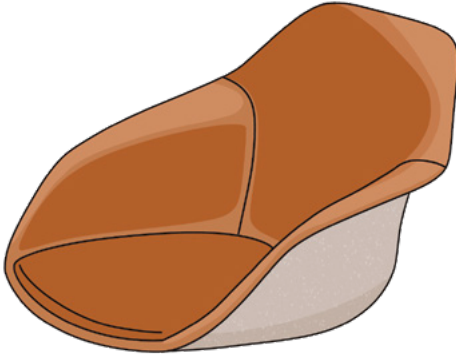
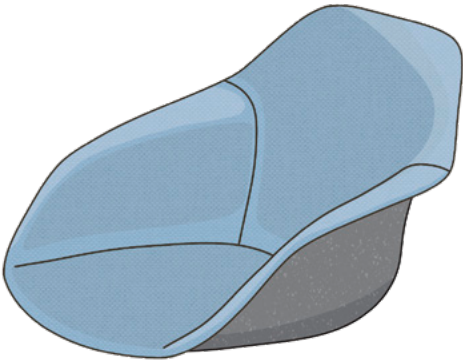


Four-leg frame coated in
6 colors or with bright
chrome plating

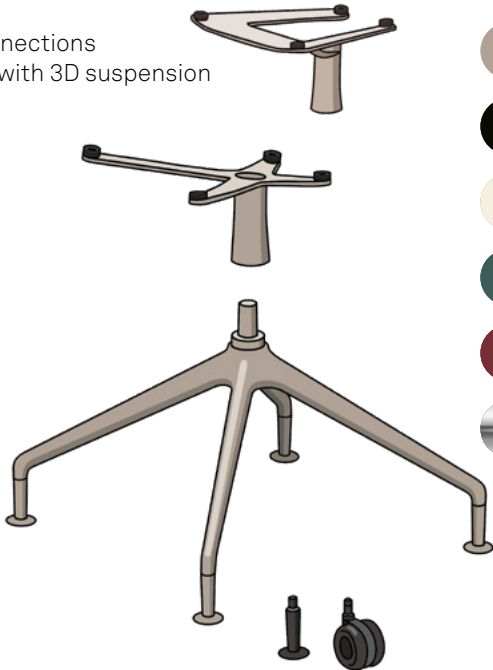


Four-leg frame
Solid oak

Six colors, five upholstery options and five base frame variants add up to a range of 150 models – not even counting the choice of upholstery materials. And should requirements change, the shells or frames are easy to replace by just loosening four screws.



Frame connections optionally with 3D suspension



Four-star base frame on glides or with casters

Frames coated in 6 colors or partially with high-luster polish



Height-adjustable, five-star base frame on casters





Ready to tackle tomorrow's world today

Applying natural and technical materials so that they can be recycled easily and for as long as possible is a huge challenge for contemporary designers. We'll show you how Yonda is for a circular economy.



Some 70% of the shell consists of recycled polypropylene (e.g. from plastic bottles) and 30% of local wood waste and is combined to produce a high-performance, recyclable biocomposite. The core padding on the inside is made of the same material and turns technical and natural waste into valuable resources.



The oak wood frame stems from FSC-certified forests, binds carbon dioxide, is (of course) renewable and only treated with natural oil for re-use in the future. The elegant tubular steel frame is made of recycled steel and, with its environmentally friendly chrome plating or energy-saving powder coating, can continue to be recycled almost indefinitely.



The aluminum is already fully recycled and can be processed again and again to create new products without any loss in quality or using too much energy. In addition to powder coatings in different colors, the chair also comes with an ultra polished surface (minus any additives) and, with occasional re-polishing, it loses none of its first-class appearance even decades on.

1988 saw the opening of the production pavilions, which architect and Pritzker prizewinner Frei Otto had designed for Wilkhahn. Later, the ecologically designed facilities by architect and environmental pioneer Thomas Herzog became an obvious symbol of the new green age at Wilkhahn.



Durability at the Core

In 1992, Wilkhahn launched the world's first office chair based on a new eco friendly design concept. And industry insiders were surprised to hear the company say that "The most ecological chair is one that isn't even produced." After all, even the most environmentally friendly concept and production method use resources. Responsibility for the environment had already become one of the company's goals and ushered in the dawn of a new ecological era. The concept no longer meant that Wilkhahn was merely a design pioneer, but an environmental one too. This aspect has repeatedly won it accolades to this day, ranging from the German Environmental Award, the Federal ecodesign Award, the B.A.U.M. Environmental Award or the Cradle-to-Cradle Challenge Award from a leading architectural media company. However, the link between design and ecology does go back much further of course.

In its founding manifesto in 1953, the legendary Ulm University of Design described its purpose: "The goal is to develop durable products, increase their utility value and reduce waste," At Wilkhahn, it laid the foundations for product development that made durability in form, function, and quality the decisive benchmark for sustainability. At least in the case of furniture, the longer and the better it remains in use, the less it pollutes the environment. In an ecologically responsible circular economy, it's all about durability first and foremost. The fact that these chairs will frequently become loyal companions and go above and beyond what's required of furniture is the definition of sustainability.

... Beyond Furniture.

Wilkhahn. Sustainable.



Concept/product development



Modularity
Can be repaired
Mono-fraction sorting possible



Modular chair range
Timeless design
Easy to disassemble

Reduce



principles



Fairness

Materials



Recycled
Recyclable
Renewable



Biocomposite shell
Recycled upholstery materials
PVC free
FSC-compliant wood
Recycled and renewable base frames

Production



Certified production
Sustainable supply chains
Fair working conditions
Resource friendly



Regional procurement
No heavy metals
Energy efficient



Chicago, USA

New York, USA

Toronto, Canada

Bad Műnder, Germany

Rotterdam, Netherlands

Brussels, Belgium

London, England

Bern, Switzerland

Zűrich, Switzerland

Madrid, Spain

Casablanca, Morocco

São Paulo, Brazil



- Legend
- Manufacturing plant
 - ⊙ Distributor
 - Licensee



Visit our website and find out more about Yonda, our sustainability report and designing contemporary working environments.





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Creative direction
Rainer Schilling

Design
Frederik Bellermann

Text
Burkhard Remmers

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