

Press Release

Salone del Mobile 2022

Walter Knoll goes Brera. In 2022, Walter Knoll is breaking new ground: for the first time, we are presenting at a new central location in the Brera Design District.

New products, materials, colors – with the team of Ippolito Fleitz we have created a unique installation at Rimessa dei Fiori, a former industrial production site in the heart of Brera, showcasing an immersive object by American artist Janet Echelman as well as a poetic flower setting by florist Irene Cuzzaniti. The appropriate stage for the presentation of our new products 2022.

We would greatly appreciate a courtesy copy. Thank you.

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Press Release

THE NEW PRODUCTS 2022



Shinzo Lounge Chair.

Design. EOOS.

At the intersection of top quality, masterly craftsmanship and timeless aesthetics

A piece of furniture that reflects our entire expertise: our new signature piece immediately brings quality to a room and makes an impressive statement. Showcasing the strength of craftsmanship from the fine decorative seams to the precise upholstery, the combination of wood, leather, fabric and steel, and its very own look. Shinzo is a result of more than 25 years of lasting partnership and deep devotion – of EOOS and Walter Knoll.

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**“Everything we know,
everything we have experienced together,
has gone into this armchair.”**

Martin Bergmann, EOOS

The armchair is the result of our common understanding. It demonstrates what we stand for and what is important to us. It is the culmination of the creation and identity of EOOS and Walter Knoll. Shinzo is an expression of the demands we make on design language, workmanship, comfort and durability.

Shinzo means heart in Japanese

The heart of the chair, the upper back, was created during the design process of cutting and material tensioning. Its geometric freeform gives expression to its rare rational emotionality. And last but not least, Shinzo, because of its uniqueness and the years of work involved in the design, has become a matter of the heart for both partners – a genuine favorite.

For a lifetime

Martin Bergmann from EOOS: “Shinzo is very much a candidate for becoming a life companion. This armchair has what it takes to become an icon, we know that from experience. I can just imagine it being passed down from one generation to the next, enjoying a second and third life. It will work in another life, in its next one – made for a lifetime and beyond.”

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**“Even though the armchair is distinctly complex,
it takes just a second to realize: this is true character.
Shinzo is unmistakable. There is so much to discover about it.”**

Gernot Bohmann, EOOS

Design

Shinzo's characteristic appearance, the significant geometry, the exact surfaces and the fourfold materiality of solid wood, saddle leather, fabric and steel attract attention: How is that done? There is a special story behind every single detail. Shinzo invites you to experience its beauty and complexity.

Material & finishing

All natural materials are carefully selected and combined by us, creating, a tactile and visual sensation. When combined with craftsmanship, the result is a diverse product experience.

Over the years, we have taken the greatest care to develop manufacturing processes which enable us to make a complex product which doesn't reveal a single screw. The saddle leather is finished in house at workshop in Herrenberg. We use a recessed decorative seam in Shinzo, as otherwise only seen in the finest tack.

Both sewing and upholstering the chair require the greatest dexterity. In this way, Shinzo's fine seams, hand-dyed saddle leather edge and the artistic upholstery attest to a high level of craftsmanship. The metal frame is also processed at the highest level and soldered by hand. It forms the basis for the precise upholstery, finely divided by leather-covered piping. As a graphic element, the piping supports the three-dimensional look of the upholstery.

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Function & variation

You gently sink into the soft, generous cushion, the sloping back provides a pleasant surface to lean on, relaxed arms rest on the wide solid wood armrests. Its fine, warm tactile surfaces entice and encourage a sense of touch.

Shinzo is mobile: despite its size, the armchair gracefully floats through the room. With its discrete castors and elegant handle on the back, the armchair is easy to move.

Shinzo is available in lots of variants which can be put together individually. The armchair comes in two sizes – with a high or low back. The matching footstool functions as both a convenient footrest and very comfortable seat. Choose from our four solid wood colors, different saddle leather and fabrics, bases in bronze or black. The color of the leather piping matches the selected Saddle leather color of the back shield.

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Tama Living Sofa.

Design: EOOS.

When do we feel at our most comfortable?

When we can enjoy our own privacy, prioritize our personal well being without distraction and have the ability to move freely to sit, lounge and spend time together as we please. We have given this informal lifestyle a new shape to provide living rooms with a new focal point: Tama Living. A central lounging space and comfortable seating as a personal place of relaxation.

Spacious, soft, clear. Every single detail – from the luxurious double récamière, the elegant blades and storage surfaces to the continuous down-filled cushions – created through dedication and executed with consummate upholstery expertise.

The design idea: to create an island

Tama Living was originally created in collaboration with the designers EOOS in 2017. The sofa quickly became known as 'The most comfortable one'. Having a comfortable retreat, a place where you feel safe and at ease, is something to be treasured – our interpretation of the Japanese expression Tama meaning jewel or gem.

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In this innovative re-design, we concentrated on what is always the main idea at Walter Knoll: reducing things to the essentials – the clarity and beauty of the sofa. How can we create a space that opens up the horizon of living and gives a room new quality of sitting and lounging? Tama Living is our new sofa, available in a range of dimensions from an intimate two-seater to lounging space for several people.

The lounging space becomes the focus

Ultra-comfortable, the oversized récamieres are the perfect spot for relaxing – an elegant, spacious area and comfortably upholstered. Guests are also invited to share this cozy place with us. The island gives the seat meaning – a nice place to be together.

Visually calm, special lounging and seating comfort

In this model extension, we have concentrated on additional geometries introducing semicircles and curves to create freer, organic shapes within the rooms in addition to the existing rectangular options.

New: the round sofa. The curved line of the round furniture changes the space's sense. With the new optional saddle leather armrests, the volume and size are considerably reduced – providing the same seating comfort but with smaller dimensions.

The soft, elegant loose cushions can be spread out lavishly, while the fixed upholstered elements seem to float on delicate solid wood blades. Gaps in the backrest are utilized to make the vast volume seem less. Cuddly corners with down-filled cushions, armrests and Side Tables made of the very best saddle leather snuggle up to the upholstery.

Private & public spaces, hospitality & lobby

Tama Living is not only ideal for private living areas, it is also a great addition to hotel lobbys and public spaces. The modular principle means the sofa can be assembled individually: as a round or curved sofa, as a straight version, as an island or in groups, including Double Récamiere, with a tray or without, made of fabric or our new exquisite nubuck leather Velvet. There are countless configuration options.

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Sustainably natural

For us at Walter Knoll, purity, durability and craftsmanship are the pillars of sustainable design. High-grade materials such as leather or fabrics with a high proportion of natural materials – for example linen – adorn the sofa in a natural way. And simply feel good. That is how Tama Living plays its part in helping to fulfil our aim of making people feel at home in rooms furnished by Walter Knoll.

New significance of lounging

“With this sofa, we want to express what we have been observing for a long time: we have discovered that sofas in private homes are used more for lying and lounging than for sitting. Tama Living devotes special attention to the subject of lounging in the living room. Casual, comfortable, cultivated. A classic sofa that provides plenty of space for it to be a private retreat.

It's something I have seen in myself: for me, it is an important moment within the social life of a family to be able to lounge somewhere together. I really appreciate the feeling of being comfortable surrounded by my family. Watching TV together, socializing, snuggling up together, maybe having a nap while someone else is doing a bit of work or even watching a series on an iPad. What I find important about Tama Living is the feeling of being able to enjoy some quality time together.”

Walter Knoll CEO Markus Benz

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Ishino Récamière.

Design: Daï Sugasawa.

The récamière from the Ishino family: a place you will love to relax in. A generous seat, inspired by the classic chaise longue. The récamière opens to one side, giving a clear view of the room.

Ishino's inimitable softness ensures very comfortable sitting and lounging. A casual, compact alternative or complement to a sofa – as with Ishino Sofa and Armchair, the high back of the récamière provides a feeling of security and invites us to enjoy its finely rounded curves and extra-soft upholstery.

Take a generous seat and be hugged by the pleasantly rounded back. The material attracts us almost magically, and surrounds us like a shell. Ishino stands for ideal proportions and a vision of more design: a clear and balanced silhouette, with relaxed yet precise folds. Every seam sits exactly where it should.

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The Ishino family:

How can a piece of furniture appeal to a feeling held deep within us? We long to be immersed in comfort. This longing is manifested in the soulful softness of the program designed by Dai Sugasawa.

The uniform design language of the entire product family of sofas, armchairs, récamieres, stools and tables offers many possibilities for individual furnishing. Ishino allows us to be immersed in comfort, and to share this feeling with others.

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Ishino Lounge Chair.

Design: Daï Sugawara.

The armchair from the Ishino family with a pronounced higher back for particularly striking seating comfort and a pleasant moment of relaxation. A holistic experience of pleasure: lean against the chair and allow yourself to sink in – submerge yourself for a moment and feel completely snug and secure.

The Lounge Chair, available with a variety of covers, rests on an elegant plinth and invites us to enjoy its finely rounded curves and extra-soft upholstery. Typically Ishino: the characteristic design language and elegant seam details.

A cover made of Velvet leather gives the highback armchair a particularly high-quality and attractive look – a joy to touch. For even more comfort, a decorative cushion in the back, adapted to the shape, is available on request.

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Ishino Stool.

Design: Daï Sugasawa.

The stool of the Ishino family: the low seat features the same design language and seam details as the armchair, sofa and récamière. Whether in a living room or bedroom, Ishino Stool, available in three dimensions, is a beautiful soloist.

The base of the stool has a retractable handle made of fine saddle leather that ensures easy moving of the furniture.

The flat seats are suitable as companions to almost all our sofas. Whether in private rooms or hospitality areas – our stools help you create a sense of well-being in a room.

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Ishino Wood Table.

Design: Daï Sugasawa.

Side tables made of fine wood in the characteristic organic pebble shape of the Ishino family. The naturally elegant design language allows a balance of lightness and volume to emerge. Ishino Wood Table is available in all Walter Knoll solid wood surfaces with a choice of three different dimensions.

Hand charmers of a special kind: crafted with soft, rounded edges, the design of table invites you to reach out and gently run your hand across its surface. The touch of the design leaves a lasting impression that you want to hold on to.

As an eye-catching piece in the middle of a living room, or next to a sofa island or group of lounge chairs. It can be combined with other models from the Ishino family in the same design language or with lots of other products.

The natural beauty of polished pebbles inspired Daï Sugasawa's design. "It's my aim to bring organic, natural elements back into people's living spaces and to reconnect us with our environment. It was a real opportunity to put this idea into practice with Walter Knoll. Because we share the same understanding, the same passion: we know the value of products crafted with the finest materials.

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In combination with technical know-how and craftsmanship, meticulous care and dedication, we have managed to create a one-of-a-kind product.”

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Seito Wood Table.

Design: Wolfgang C. R. Mezger.

A unique table sculpture made of solid wood: a playful sense of lightness emerges through a balance of lines, angles and surfaces. The oval table top and the crossed base can be made from the finest woods, such as oak or nutwood. The wooden table comes in a boat shape and as a round dining table – each in different sizes.

Warmth and sensuality

The choice of solid wood brings a feeling of coziness and natural elegance into every room. Crafted with soft, rounded edges, the design of table invites you to reach out and gently run your hand across its surface. The touch of the design leaves a lasting impression that you want to hold on to.

High value and lightness

A large dining table as meeting point and center of a house. Material and form in perfect harmony – everyone sitting at the table feels its power. Plenty of space here for all the family and guests.

The proportions of the top and legs have been perfectly balanced for each table size. The size of the base adapts to the format.

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As an optional extra with a round table top: the lazy Susan makes food accessible to everyone at the table. Floating visually on the surface, it gives the furniture additional generosity.

Dining in good company The Seito family of dining tables, with surfaces made of natural wood or solid quartz, fits seamlessly into private and public spaces alike. Freestanding in a living or dining room, the dining table commands attention. In hospitality areas, the solid wood creates a refined ambience, while the version with a quartz table top represents both lightness and an exciting combination of materials.

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THE INSTALLATION



Space design by Ippolito Fleitz

With the team of Ippolito Fleitz, our unique installation has been created in the Rimessa dei Fiori at Milan Design Week 2022. Our long term partner is a multidisciplinary design studio based in Stuttgart, Berlin and Shanghai, developing identities in the fields of architecture, product design and communications. Their goal is to create moments, in which new ideas metamorphose into a multidimensional design as part of a discontinuous process. Ippolito Fleitz Group has won numerous awards around the globe and joined the Interior Design Hall of Fame as first German studio in 2015.

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Artwork by Janet Echelman

At Milan Design Week 2022, Walter Knoll is showcasing a fascinating space-defining object by renowned artist Janet Echelman. The American creates billowing sculpture engineered to the scale of buildings, choreographed by wind and light, that shifts from being an object you look at, to a living environment you can get lost in.

From architecture, urban design to material science, computer science and structural as well as aeronautical engineering – using unlikely materials from fishnet to atomized water particles, Echelman combines ancient craft with original computational design software to create artworks that have become focal points for urban life on four continents.

Recipient of the Guggenheim Fellowship, Harvard Loeb Fellowship, Aspen Institute Henry Crown Fellowship, and Fulbright Lectureship, Echelman was named an Architectural Digest Innovator for "changing the very essence of urban spaces."

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Flower Art by Irene Cuzzaniti

The Milanese florist transforms the Rimessa dei Fiori with a poetic floral setting. Irene Cuzzaniti works with her Studio irene with plants and flowers to convey a delicate and essential aesthetic, employing synthesis and dynamism as main working tools.

Her floral compositions are influenced by the observation of nature, art and design. Flowers inspire her constantly and offer her endless teaching – she regards them as one of the most perfect form of truth and tenderness.

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