

Cassina

503 SOFT PROPS

Year of production 2017

Small architectures that grow inside things. A system of forms that orbit around each other and acquire identity from their reciprocal relationship. Soft Props is an innovatively developed system. It is generated from a nucleus of two modules that can be combined together to create a galaxy of configurations, distinctive both for independence and versatility. Modular padded seating, with end, middle or corner elements, all linked by a tube made up of four different parts in metal, interchangeable and with invisible joints, allows for the creation of different compositions. The visible tube outlines the perimeter of the seats, creating a protective boundary, which defines space within space; some outer sections of the tube are covered with polyurethane foam, with an aesthetic as well as practical function. Starting with the most abstract element, the ottoman, the system can be arranged to effectively converse with the surrounding area. The individual modules come together naturally to compose the classic two-seater sofa, an island, a chaise longue or even a bed. The system is completed by low side tables, with or without a drawer, to be joined to the padded elements, and by a separate side table, in different finishes. Seat structure: frame in fir plywood Padding: variable density CFC-free polyurethane foam and down. Tubular junction elements: glossy black-lacquered metal with segments covered in polyurethane foam. Side table finishes: lacquered in different shades, in American walnut or natural oak, in Marquiña black or Carrara white marble.

Gallery



Designer



Konstantin Grcic

Konstantin Grcic (*1965) trained as a cabinet maker at the John Makepeace School (Dorset, England) and studied Design at the Royal College of Art in London. Since setting up his own practice *Konstantin Grcic Industrial Design (KGID)* in Munich in 1991 he has developed furniture, products and lighting for some of the world's leading design companies in the design field. Amongst his renowned clients are BD Ediciones, Cassina, ClassiCon, Triade, Flos, Flötotto, Laufen, Magis, Mattiazzi, Muji, Nespresso, Plank, Rado, Serafino Zani and Vitra. For Galerie kreo in Paris, he has created a number of limited edition pieces since 2004. Many of his products have received international design awards such as the prestigious Compasso d'Oro for his *Mayday* lamp (Flos) in 2001, the *Myto* chair (Plank) in 2011 and the *OK* lamp (Flos) in 2016. Designs by Konstantin Grcic form part of the permanent collections of the most important design museums (a.o. MoMA-New York, Centre Georges Pompidou-Paris). Konstantin Grcic has curated a number of significant design exhibitions such as "Design Real" for The Serpentine Gallery, London (2009), "Comfort" for the St.Etienne Design Biennale (2010) and "Black2" for the Istituto Svizzero, Rome (2010). In 2012 he was responsible for the exhibition design of the German Pavilion at the 13th Architecture Biennale in Venice. Solo exhibitions of his work have been shown at the Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen (Rotterdam, 2006), Haus der Kunst (Munich, 2006) and The Art Institute of Chicago (2009), at the Vitra Design Museum (Weil am Rhein, Germany, 2014) and at the Kunsthalle Bielefeld (Bielefeld, Germany, 2016). The Royal Society for the Arts appointed Konstantin Grcic "Royal Designer for Industry" in 2009, in 2010 he was fellow at Villa Massimo in Rome. In 2016 Konstantin Grcic was awarded the Personality distinction for his achievements by the German Design Council. The exhibition catalogue of the Vitra Design Museum (2014) comprises a catalogue raisonné of Grcic's work as well as essays by different authors.

Konstantin Grcic defines function in human terms, combining formal strictness with considerable mental acuity and humour. Each of his products is characterized by a careful research into the history of design and architecture and his passion for technology and materials. Known for pared-down pieces, Grcic is often called a minimalist but the designer himself prefers to speak of simplicity.