

BATON, DESIGN: NERI & HU

Supplementing the practical functionality of everyday objects with distinctive form is the eternal challenge in design. And it is precisely this balancing act that Neri&Hu has pulled off with the wardrobe stands and tables in the BATON series, which comes as a homage to the Viennese Secessionist design movement.

The shapes of BATON feel very familiar. They bring to mind historic Vienna – a reference that is quite deliberate: the collection is inspired by the *zeitgeist* of the Secessionist movement, a collective of painters, sculptors and designers who were committed to a forward-looking, international and inclusive view of art.

The product family consists of wardrobe stands in two sizes, a low coffee table and a convivial bistro table – all delicate, elegant home accessories that serve as eye-catchers in different home or contract settings while fulfilling their respective purposes down to the letter. Standing proud at 183 centimeters, the taller of the wardrobe stands accommodates long coats and blazers on hangers or loops, provides space for hats and caps, and will never be thrown off balance by heavier loads. Its smaller sibling, measuring 143 centimeters, is perfect for scarves, jackets or children's clothes, and on top of it all it includes a practical, bowl-shaped tray for keys, sunglasses or other small items. The coffee table is endowed with the same feature – a tray-like tabletop with raised lip – to keep smaller items securely where they were placed. Next to a sofa, desk or bed, as well as in a closet space, it makes itself useful holding reading glasses, jewelry, electronic devices, a cup of tea or other things. With a diameter of 75 centimeters, the bistro table (dimensioned to dining table height) has a tabletop that is every bit as generously proportioned as the coffee table. But shorn of the raised edge, it makes an ideal surface for plates, glasses, work documents and much more.

All models comprise three parts: like classic columns they consist of a base, shaft and capital. In each case the base is a solid pedestal hewn from the highest-quality marble, from which slender powder-coated aluminum supports issue. On the tables, these rods – or *batons* to adopt the French nomenclature – are wrapped in leather throughout with the highest degree of precision. For the wardrobe stands, the height cleverly exploits an additional interplay with the materials: only the lower part of the supports is leather wrapped, leading the eye upwards. Like all of the table tops and surfaces, they are finished in a fine, elegantly powder-coated structure.

The rigour of the design reveals an emphatic prompt from the geometry and stylistic playbook of Josef Hoffmann's chair designs. And the choice of materials – metal and stone wrapped in leather – is clearly influenced by Adolf Loos' interiors. BATON navigates effortlessly between past, present and future.

"With Wittmann, we share an aspiration to continuously develop design while retaining a true reverence for tradition and craftsmanship."

Lyndon Neri & Rossana Hu

Variants & dimensions – Wardrobe Stands:

- High: H 183cm, ø 40cm
- Low: H 143cm, ø 40cm
- Frame: Black Grey powder-coated, lower sections of column leather-wrapped (standard Nappa Black, available without surcharge Nappa Siena or Nappa Verde)
- Low: Tray Black Grey powder-coated
- Base: Marble on metal plate with felt glides (standard Nero Marquina marble, available without surcharge Verde Guatemala marble); Verde Guatemala marble in combination with Nappa Verde, Nero Marquina marble in combination with Nappa Black or Nappa Siena

Variants & dimensions – Tables:

- Coffee Table: ø Table top bowl-shaped 76cm, ø base 43cm, total height 45cm
- Bistro Table: ø table top 77cm, ø base 43cm, total height 75cm
- Frame: Black Grey powder-coated, columns leather-covered (standard Nappa Black, available without surcharge Nappa Siena or Nappa Verde)
- Table tops: Black Grey powder-coated
- Base: Marble on metal plate with felt glides (standard Nero Marquina marble, available without surcharge Verde Guatemala marble); Verde Guatemala marble in combination with Nappa Verde, Nero Marquina marble in combination with Nappa Black or Nappa Siena

Combining distinctive design with masterful craftsmanship – the core of the Wittmann vision. Skillfully blending traditional craftsmanship with contemporary design departures, the Austrian family business has always set trends and continues to create milestones in furniture history to this day. Rather than prescribing a particular style, Wittmann instead allows global inspiration and an optimistic, open-minded attitude to guide the process, creating those distinctive products of eclectic style that reflect individuality and originality. True to the central brand promise of *Making the Difference*.

The Austrian family business, now in its fifth generation, produces the highest quality designer upholstered furniture using traditional handcrafting methods. For more than 125 years, Wittmann has stood for quality, individuality and unparalleled craftsmanship. In collaboration with internationally renowned designers, Wittmann creates precisely crafted furniture enriching private interiors and exceptional projects in hospitality, retail and corporate offices around the world with its originality.

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