

MILES AHEAD, DESIGN: SEBASTIAN HERKNER

Sophisticated elegance

Family harmony takes on a new dimension when each individual has the freedom to develop their own separate character and an independent identity. And when a family like this come together, the strength of their bond is plain to see. They do not all look the same, each has his or her unmistakable personality – but it is clear that they belong together and complement one another effortlessly.

For members of his Merwyn/Miles patchwork family, Sebastian Herkner struck upon a continuous thread to unite them all. The key element was meticulously executed leather piping – a band in every sense of the word that speaks to Wittmann exceptional skills as a maker of handcrafted furniture. Mirroring real life, the members of this particular family have a strong presence, both alone and as part of an ensemble. They are equally self-assured in the company of other characters as they are when positioned as a family unit. The second refreshingly unconventional family characteristic is the round cushion 'bisected' by the piping, whose shape and volume conjures up associations with delicious macaroons – especially in Merwyn's case. And there are parallels: only experienced and steady hands are in a position to create truly perfectly shaped macaroons.

Sebastian Herkner and Wittmann have certainly developed a taste for it, as this growing collection shows. In the swivel-base version, the graceful Merwyn chair stakes its claim on the offices of this world, where it contributes additional colour, chic and glamour. And to ensure that this special shape is not the exclusive preserve of chair buyers, Merwyn is also available as a dining sofa, lounge chair and couch. The charismatic seating furniture in the Miles collection truly is miles ahead when it comes to design and comfort. All of the pieces are accompanied by a range of versatile coffee and dining tables.

Miles armchair and sofa

Soft, round, inviting, protective. Many attributes can be ascribed to the chairs, armchairs, sofas and tables in the Miles series. They add refinement to homes, hotel lounge areas, meeting corners in offices and reception areas in stores to prove the ultimate in aesthetics, comfort and finish. Long gone are the days when formal sofa arrangements dominated living spaces. Today the sofa has become a highly private piece of furniture, almost exclusively reserved for its owners as a place to relax, recharge their batteries and enjoy each other's company. An inherently stable armrest envelops the back rest, creating a visual – and literal – support and security. All of which is new and different, and highly alluring. Miles ahead, in a manner of speaking.

Variants:

- Chair and sofa in three different lengths (186cm, 236cm, 273cm)
- Chair with black powder-coated swivel base, sofas with black legs
- Piping in choice of leather as standard; same as covering if desired

Miles pouflongue

Free standing and free from conventions. In order to satisfy this longing and meet his own expectations, Sebastian Herkner simply created a new category of furniture: the Miles pouflongue is part footrest, part chaise longue and one thing above all else: a small, freestanding island for one or more people. A stage or a retreat, depending on its location. A place to rest, think, work or sleep. Whatever the imagination pictures. Its little brother, Miles footrest, can be placed next to it as an object, or used in combination with fellow family members Miles lounge chair and Miles sofa. The pouflongue and footrest appear to float – as an island – on the surface, supported by invisible Teflon sliders. And so that they harmonise beautifully with the slightly more raised sofas and lounge chair, the piping is executed at the same level in all models. A treat for the eyes, and typically Wittmann: cleverly thought-through down to the very last detail.

Variants:

- Pouflongue 125cm L, 148cm W, 43cm H
- Footstool 55x43cm
- Piping in choice of leather as standard; same as covering if desired

Miles tables

The contemporary take on furnishing: we form an attachment to objects not just because they simply fulfil a purpose, but because we like to see and feel them on a daily basis. When it comes to the shape of a table, there are certain immutable criteria that must be satisfied if the piece is to meet the demands placed on it. By making a small but critical design change, Sebastian Herkner has successfully added a highly attractive and independent newcomer to this exacting product group: what at first glance look like single-piece columns supporting the tabletop reveal themselves to be delicately bundled rods that form an ornamental whole. What makes the supposedly 'classic' bistro table a definitively contemporary representative of its genre is freedom of selection when it comes to materials – an endless variety of combinations and looks creating different tactile experiences. And when Wittmann turns a design into reality, there really are no limits to the creative options: the rods on the central column can be individually wrapped in leather, if desired.

Variants:

- Tabletop in four marble variants.
- Base plate tubular black grey powder-coated, or brass satin matt
- Columns: tubular black grey with powder-coated, or brass satin matt or leather covering
- Two coffee table heights, two dining table heights, three tabletop diameters

Merwyn

When a chair has to have a special, inviting character, Merwyn's unique curved design fits the bill like no other. In time-honoured Wittmann tradition, this chair is perfectly proportioned, so that – with a pocket-sprung cushion – maximum comfort is achieved while maintaining an aesthetic lightness, while its smooth lines are attractive from every angle. The optional armrests lend the chair even more independence. The armrests and back are leather-covered, surrounding the seat in a single elegant curve. Another significant feature is the masterfully worked single line of piping, running around the seat.

Merwyn is a truly outstanding chair – working well as a stand-alone piece or next to a bureau or dressing table, and really coming into its own when several are used together in a mixed group with covering and piping in varying materials and colours. Bearing the unmistakable stamp of Sebastian Herkner, Merwyn adds a touch of levity to any interior design.

The new variant with a swivel base brings movement to meeting and dining tables alike: the motion adds a genuine source of fun which should not be underestimated, while the unusual aesthetics bring a fresh sense of originality to any dining situation.

Variants:

- Without armrest in fabric or leather
- With armrests: the arm element envelops the backrest, always finished in leather Every category of Wittmann leather available
- Feet black lacquered for an additional fee: solid natural oak, powder-coated tubular black grey, or satin matt brass feet
- Swivel base polished aluminium or powder-coated black grey

Merwyn lounge

“Peace and quiet, a sofa and a cup of tea is everything”: the piece of furniture that inspired Theodor Fontane to make this heartfelt statement of wellbeing must have had very special qualities. So it is good that Wittmann produces feelgood furniture in the here and now that can easily trigger similar pronouncements. Models that feature highly efficient, state-of-the-art internal upholstery, crafted and layered with an expertise based on traditional methods and skills. The shell that Sebastian Herkner gives this quality core espouses a similar blend of traditional and contemporary strengths: the shape of the chair and sofa stirs up associations with classic armchairs and canapés. The precise upholstery is positioned above delicate, almost fragile-looking legs. By contrast, the piece's modern, pared-down shape and thoroughly stable structure – along with its pleasingly coherent proportions – is a product of the complexity of knowledge and skill that goes into innovative design ideas. Ultimately it is all about a highly emotional outcome: you take a seat on Merwyn, cup of tea in hand, enjoy the peace and quiet and think to yourself: “There is nothing better than this.”

Variants:

- Chair and sofa (130cm without, 135cm with armrests)
- Without armrest in fabric or leather
- With armrests: the arm element envelops the backrest, always finished in leather Every category of Wittmann leather available
- Feet tubular black grey powder-coated, or brass satin matt
- Piping always in leather



Merwyn dining sofa

Hand on heart – whenever a restaurant offers a choice of a bench or seat, almost everyone finds in favour of the comfortable bench. The option of spreading out as the mood takes you or simply sitting closer together as a couple is highly appealing. And if the bench is invitingly upholstered with an ideal seat height and comfortable backrest, then there is nothing in the way of enjoyment on every level. It is precisely these desirable qualities that the new Merwyn dining sofa exhibits, making it a focal point for any dining situation. As well as providing the perfect foil to its relatives in the Merwyn chair family, it can also be positioned playfully alongside ‘outsiders’.

Variants:

- Seat height 48cm
- Without armrests (130cm) available in fabric or leather
- With armrests (135cm): the arm element envelops the backrest, always finished in leather
Every category of Wittmann leather available
- Feet tubular black grey powder-coated, or brass satin matt
- Piping always in leather

Merwyn dining tables

For everyone that prefers matching furnishings or simply cannot get enough of the bold lines of the Merwyn family: a table in two variants – the logical follow-up to a coherent chair design. The piping is a distinguishing feature, visually linking the chair and table. The broad table legs are covered with leather, with precisely executed piping running vertically down each of the four outward-facing corners.

Variants:

- 240 or 280cm wide, 105cm deep.
- Oval, 220cm wide and 95cm deep.
- Tabletop natural solid oak brush matt lacquered or solid natural walnut matt lacquered
- Wooden feet steel core with wood cladding, leather-covered with piping

Wittmann, a family-run Austrian company, produces the highest quality handmade upholstered furnishings. For more than 120 years, Wittmann brand has been synonymous with precision, individuality and unparalleled craftsmanship. The company works with internationally acclaimed designers to create perfectly made furniture that adorns private residences and out-of-the-ordinary contract settings worldwide.

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