

Pacific Chair

Developed by Vitra in Switzerland

Design: Edward Barber & Jay Osgerby, 2016

Edward Barber and Jay Osgerby's work is characterised by appropriateness and precision. As keen observers of everyday objects and how they are used, they create designs that are gentle in gesture and always accessible while remaining unobtrusive. Their work exudes freshness, featuring bold colours and straightforward, linear shapes. Their latest design is in keeping with this approach: together with Vitra, Barber and Osgerby are introducing their very first office chair at the Stockholm Furniture Fair – the Pacific Chair.

Development of the Pacific Chair followed the guiding principle 'full performance, quiet design' and achieved a harmonious combination of these two characteristics. The high-quality individual components have a consistent design language, lending the Pacific Chair expressive clarity and precision. Its appearance is strongly defined by the backrest, which extends so far down that no mechanical components are visible from behind, with the exception of the base. With its linear silhouette and understated design, the chair is an ideal addition to any contemporary interior.

'To us the contemporary work chair has become a contraption – a collection of controls and levers. Rethinking how to minimise the visual impact of these elements has been at the centre of our design. Our chair is simple to use and visually calm.' This is how Edward Barber describes the process that led to the final design.

Although not readily visible, the Pacific Chair offers all the sophisticated functions necessary for ergonomic seating. The height-adjustable back and armrests form part of the same vertically aligned profile. This is a decisive feature of the overall design concept and allows users to sit sideways. The synchronised mechanism automatically responds to the weight of the respective user, offering an immediate sense of personalised comfort. Further fine adjustments can be carried out quickly and easily thanks to the concealed but intuitively positioned operating elements. The padded backrest comes in three different heights; one height is available with a mesh cover. Components are colour-coordinated in light or dark versions, available with matching functional armrests or elegant aluminium arm supports.

'To optimise comfort, we joined with Vitra in developing a new mechanism that responds to the individual weight of the sitter. Further lumbar adjustment is provided from a seated position by the vertical movement of the backrest', explains Jay Osgerby.