

Vlinder Sofa

Developed by Vitra in Switzerland

Design: Hella Jongerius, 2018

Vlinder combines the archetypal form of a contemporary sofa with a fabric that was exclusively designed and developed to fit this sofa's shape. The innovative textile bears the signature of Dutch designer Hella Jongerius and pushes the boundaries of modern weaving technology. After presenting an 'Author's Version' at the 2018 Salone del Mobile, Vitra now announces the market launch of the Vlinder Sofa in autumn 2019.

Vlinder marks a step into the future for the Vitra Colour & Material Library and also opens a new chapter in Jongerius' personal exploration of the fusion of craft and industry. For the development of Vlinder, she merged her extensive knowledge of weaving techniques with over ten years of experience as Art Director for colours and materials at Vitra.

Vlinder's contoured overlay is precisely tailored to fit the classic shape of this comfortable sofa. The cover fabric reveals Jongerius' singular skills as a textile designer and sets new standards for weaving technology: eight colours with yarns of two different thicknesses comprise the various levels of seven different jacquard weaves. A multitude of weave patterns, colours and textures flow together on the surface to form a choreographed, richly abstract composition full of density and depth.

'Vlinder is a master study in weaving. A team of textile engineers and hand weavers joined forces to make this unique design possible. It shows a new way of producing a tailored "one-off" pattern and creating an haute couture sofa that combines the human touch of crafts with the possibilities of digital technology.' Hella Jongerius

The contemporary body of the sofa serves as a platform for the extraordinary cover, a rich tapestry of motifs, weaves and colours. Sinuously draped over the seat, back and armrests and held in place by its own weight, the lush cover resembles a colourful butterfly with outspread wings. Only small parts of the underlying body remain visible, with a fabric surface that matches the respective colours and bindings of the duvet-like cover – available in a composition of light reds, light greens, dark reds or dark greens.

Comprising multiple layers of foam, Vlinder's soft upholstery is combined with the downy overlay to provide exceptionally cosy comfort.