

# home stories



vitra.



This winter we'll be visiting two residences again: a house built by Walter Gropius that Barbara Happe and Martin Fischer have lovingly restored and the modern, ecological house of the Jüttner family. Each of these homes has a character of its own as well as its own unique history – all underscored by the products from Vitra.

It is simple to understand that chairs take the most stress on their back legs, where they bear the weight of the user's upper body. Applying this theory to the structural design is a very different challenge, as demonstrated by Jean Prouvé's Standard chair: seen in profile, the rear legs made of bent sheet steel resemble aeroplane wings. Widest at the level of the seat frame, they taper upwards at an angle to determine the position of the backrest. Slender steel tubing is sufficient for the front legs, which bear a lighter load. Vitra manufactures the Standard chair in a range of materials and colours – including an all-wood version created by Jean Prouvé in response to the scarcity of metal during World War II: Chaise Tout Bois.



## Barbara Happe and Martin Fischer have injected new life into a house designed by Walter Gropius

“It’s a great feeling to live in a listed building and even better to know that it will still be standing for generations to come.”

“Walter Gropius only built six detached family houses in Germany. We are immensely grateful that we own one of them. When we bought it in 1994, it was in complete ruins and the garden was a wilderness. We had to invest a lot in order to restore it to its original condition. We took the time to research its history thoroughly, trawled through books and archives. Which colours were used? How was it furnished? We always took the view that the house as a whole was a work of art that needed rediscovering. That’s what we’ve been doing for 27 years.

Gropius regarded Bauhaus as more than just a style – and more of a way of thinking. He saw the inherent beauty in all of these things. He believed that the foundations of design lay in clarity and harmonious lines while forgoing extraneous objects such as houseplants. There are no curtains in our house. You can see the inside through the windows.

There is a bed with two stools on the right and

left of it in our bedroom and no other furniture. The austerity of the furnishings is not to everyone’s taste, but we see this as being very elegant. There is beauty in practicality. The dialogue between the function and design of everyday objects – this includes furniture in particular – that’s what it’s all about. The design has to be timeless, the function has to be high quality – it is only then that furniture can grow old gracefully.

It’s a great feeling to live in a listed building and even better to know that it will still be standing for generations to come. It doesn’t feel like a museum to us and we hope that this house never becomes a museum. It was built for people to live in.”

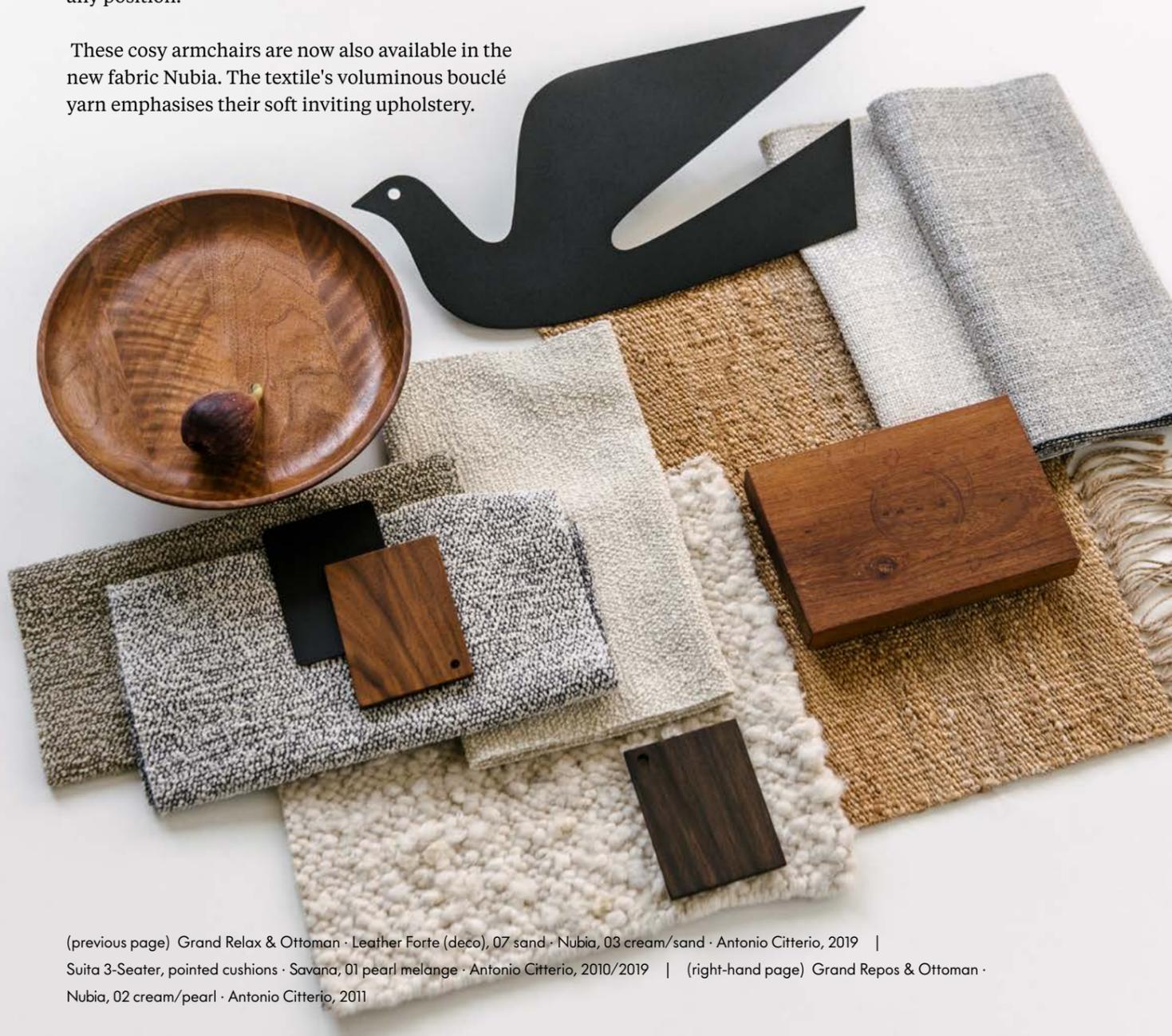
Martin Fischer is a professor of zoology, Barbara Happe is a cultural scientist. They have been married since 1987 and live and work in Jena.



**Grand Repos & Ottoman**  
now available in Nubia  
Antonio Citterio, 2011

Jointly developed by Vitra and Antonio Citterio, the lounge chairs Repos and Grand Repos introduce a unique blend of haptics, movement and aesthetics to the home environment: with their generous padding, inviting armrests and high backrest, these swivel-based lounge chairs offer an extraordinary level of comfort, particularly when in combination with the matching ottoman or the Panchina bench. A synchronised mechanism is concealed within the upholstery, providing spinal support at every reclining angle. The backrest can be locked in any position.

These cosy armchairs are now also available in the new fabric Nubia. The textile's voluminous bouclé yarn emphasises their soft inviting upholstery.



(previous page) Grand Relax & Ottoman · Leather Forte (deco), 07 sand · Nubia, 03 cream/sand · Antonio Citterio, 2019 |  
Suita 3-Seater, pointed cushions · Savana, 01 pearl melange · Antonio Citterio, 2010/2019 | (right-hand page) Grand Repos & Ottoman ·  
Nubia, 02 cream/pearl · Antonio Citterio, 2011

Buy a Repos or Grand Repos  
and receive an Ottoman or  
Panchina as a gift.\*



\* Offer valid from 1 November 2021 until 31 January 2022. The Ottoman/Panchina will come in the same configuration as the Repos/Grand Repos.



## Simon and Franziska Jüttner regard the robustness that enables objects to exist as an expression of quality

We like furniture that endures, becomes part of the family and doesn't get thrown out after a few years. It should still appeal to us 20 years later.

“When we bought the house in Allgäu in 2016, we realised very quickly that we wanted to use as much of the original construction as possible in the conversion work: the outer walls, ceilings doors – even the old wash basins. However, the idea was not to recreate a farmhouse from 200 years ago. For us it was an experiment to see how high quality an ecological construction that uses sustainable materials can be. To the greatest possible degree, everything had to be recyclable, compostable or combustible, without costing too much. That's why we decided on plain floorboards and unplastered masonry.

We like furniture that endures, that becomes part of the family and that doesn't get thrown out after a few years. It should still appeal to us 20 years later. And ideally, to our kids as well. A chair needs to be comfortable and sturdy. You need to be able to stand

on it from time to time. When we lived in town, social interaction mostly took place in cafés. In the country we meet up at home or visit friends in their homes or in the garden, depending on the time of year. This is why it was important for us to have a space where one can receive a lot of guests and a table at which many people can congregate or pop in and out. This is what our home means to us. Our table is used for work, games, homework and – of course – for meals together. Children need to feel that they can be children here. The house needs to be able to deal with the result of this – the scratches, stains and dents. It's all part of the atmosphere.”

Franziska Jüttner is a psychologist and her husband, Simon, is an architect. They live in Bad Hindelang in Bavaria.







# Vitra's Manufacturer Warranty Programme

Vitra's greatest contribution to sustainability lies in the longevity of its products. The pieces are designed to last – and this commitment to quality and durability guides every decision Vitra makes when developing and manufacturing products. Now Vitra guarantees the long lifespan of selected pieces from the Vitra Originals collection by offering a ten- or thirty-year manufacturer's warranty for newly purchased products.

Two new products have been added to the warranty programme in 2021: Tip Ton and Tip Ton RE by the British designers Edward Barber and Jay Osgerby. Both chairs are covered by a ten-year manufacturer's warranty following online registration of the products within three months after purchase.



Standard



Landi Chair



Panton Chair Classic



Panton Chair / Panton Junior



Organic Chair



Standard SP



Cité



.03



Tip Ton RE / Tip Ton

These offers are valid through participating dealers only.  
They can be found at [www.vitra.com/find-vitra](http://www.vitra.com/find-vitra)  
Vitra International AG, Klüfenfeldstrasse 22, 4127 Birsfelden  
0041 (0)61 377 00 00, [info@vitra.com](mailto:info@vitra.com)  
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Concept, Art Direction, Design: Studio AKFB  
Interior photography: Florian Böhm  
Styling: p. 1-9, 20 Linda Ehrl, p. 10-17 Anka Rehbock

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