

Press Release
Milan/Frankenberg, April 2014

Re-issued: the tubular steel club chair S 35 with footstool in two high-quality leather versions **Design: Marcel Breuer, 1928/29**

After several years, Thonet takes the club chair S 35 by Marcel Breuer and matching footstool S 35 H back into its program. The Frankenberg company presents the tubular steel chair in two fine leather versions: with black full grain core leather and with brown buffalo hide. The latter is part of the successful Pure Materials collection, which is characterized by nickel-plated tubular steel and oiled wood. Breuer's design of the chair on skids with a flexing seat dates back to the years 1928/29. Thonet has been producing the cantilever chair since 1930.

The S 35 is special due to its unusual construction: Marcel Breuer had succeeded to realize all functions of a tubular steel cantilever chair in a single, uninterrupted line. The cantilever effect was doubled because the armrests, which flex independently from the seat, balanced the flexing of the back frame of the cantilever seat. The original version of the S 35 respectively B 35 – under the latter name the chair was listed in the product catalogs from the 1930s – was stretched with iron yarn and had wooden armrests. Soon, however, there were versions with wicker cane, leather and cowhide as well as upholstered versions. The cantilever club chair B 35 was first presented in 1930 at the Paris Grand Palais as a contribution of the Deutscher Werkbund.

Marcel Breuer's tubular steel furniture and Thonet

In 1925, Marcel Breuer started his first furniture experiments with cold bent tubular steel. He experimented with the principle of the flexing chair without back legs – a principle that became popular under the term “cantilever”, which goes back to a design by Dutch architect Mart Stam from 1926. Breuer predicted that it would feel “like sitting on elastic pillars of air”. The simple tubular steel furniture designs by Marcel Breuer, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, Mart Stam and others revolutionized furniture design with their clear formal language and excellently fit in with the modern architecture of the time. Marcel Breuer's tubular steel furniture designs are considered classics today and can be found in the most important design collections worldwide.

Marcel Breuer

Born on 22 May 1902 in Pécs in Hungary, Marcel Breuer studied at the Staatliches Bauhaus Dessau from 1920 to 1924, after he quit studying art. After a short stay in Paris he took over the direction of the carpentry workshop at the Bauhaus, which had meanwhile moved to Dessau, from 1925 to 1928. During this time, he was strongly influenced by constructivism and De Stijl, and developed a few trend-setting furniture designs made of tubular steel. In 1928, Breuer went to Berlin where he mainly worked in the field of interior design. In 1931 he went on several journeys, before he worked on a diversity of aluminum furniture designs in Switzerland as of 1932. In 1935, Marcel Breuer moved to London where he worked as an architect. In 1937 he was awarded a professorship for architecture at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts (USA), where he later founded an architectural office together with Walter Gropius. In 1946, Marcel Breuer established his own studio in New York and realized numerous designs in Europe and the US. He is considered one of the most important architects and designers of modernism. Marcel Breuer died on 1 July 1981 in New York.

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