

curve

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Tom Matano

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Sweet November

The long shadows and muted light of the low Scandinavian November sun inspired the design team when creating the chair



above
the November chair in the Artipelag art centre

The November chair, designed for Artipelag – the highly acclaimed new art and design centre in Stockholm's archipelago – is a beautifully crafted chair made entirely from wood.

In 2000, Björn Jakobson, founder of the company BabyBjörn, was hit with the idea of creating a beautiful building for art and cultural experiences somewhere in the Stockholm archipelago. He produced Artipelag – an international venue for art, as well as events, activities and good food, set in the Stockholm archipelago, about 20 minutes from the city centre.

The design and architecture of the Artipelag expresses an interplay between nature and art, with features such as a walkway leading up to a Sedum-plant-covered roof, a huge rock in the restaurant and stunning walls sloping into the smaller art rooms. These features, along with the long shadows and muted light of the low November sun, inspired the design team when creating the November chair.

Jakobson approached Veryday designers Peter Ejvinsson and Emmy Larsson eight months prior to the opening of the centre. The request was to design a chair specifically for the Artipelag with the potential of becoming a furniture classic. The requirements were that the chair should be comfortable, beautiful and durable.



right and below
 designers from VeryDay, modelling
 and prototyping the November Chair



"We wanted to create an extremely rigid and durable design, with a soft 'touch and feel'," says Peter Ejvinson, industrial designer at Veryday. "Many visitors stop and want to touch the chair and sit in it."

The soft shapes and surfaces create lines that build the character. Most of the design work was done using scale models, carefully sculpturing each part of the chair by hand. This allowed the designers to dictate the smooth transition between the shapes and angles of the chair with full control, making sure the chair was beautiful from every angle – including the back of the chair, which, of course, is actually the front when placed at a table.

Apart from the aesthetically pleasing and sophisticated form, the design team has also considered the ergonomic aspects. "To make sure the chair would be comfortable, the backrest was made wide and with smooth radiuses. The seat surface is 3D-shaped to help spread the load over a greater area. The way the chair is designed, there is a smooth transition between legs, seat and back rest, minimising sharp corners," Ejvinson explains. In short, November is ergonomically designed for comfort.

November is manufactured at a carpentry factory with almost 100 years of experience in chair production, while using the latest technology to guarantee superb quality and longevity. "The chair is produced in Slovenia. It's made from 10 separate CNC milled pieces of wood. The pieces are then glued together and lightly sanded. Due to the high tolerances of the CNC machine, no extra work is needed," says Ejvinson.

The November chair won an iF Gold Award 2013, is currently in production and is available for purchase in the Artipelag's design shop. ■

