

DESIGN
STEAD CHRISTOPHER
PARIS

FUORISALONE 2024

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La Chaise GIGOGNE

PRESS RELEASE

BRAND PROFILE

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La Chaise Gigogne is a brand name that has been registered by Christopher STEAD.

It is the French translation of “nesting chair,” readily understood as such by analogy with commonplace nesting tables.

Nesting chairs that can be **used as a single chair** are extremely rare, not to say inexistant, in the marketplace.

Inasmuch as industrial models are typically unusable in their *stacked* configuration, in manifest obedience to a dated paradigm of uniformity, **La Chaise Gigogne** aims to celebrate the fact that human beings come in all shapes and sizes.

There is no real need — except in the fantasy of dictators — for all of us to sit on exactly uniform mounts.

La Chaise Gigogne’s vocation is rather to group together and commercialize collections of furniture projects around the common theme of nesting chairs, but in various materials, shapes and sizes.

Several such projects are at different stages of design development.

The first to take the form of potentially industrial serial production we call

Matrjoska

This particular Russian doll “comes out” — makes her social début — during Milan Design Week 2024.

FUORISALONE venue: Galleria l’Affiche, via dell’ Unione 6, 20122 MILANO.

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004_ISF-1717.jpg



003_ISF-1709.jpg



002_ISF-1564.jpg

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006_ISF-1646.jpg



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Two different models of small chair C can be assembled from identical cut elements — either for or without a cushion.

The cushion (here shown in Sa Bértula fabric from Sardinia) can be adapted to all three individual chairs, which further permits various seating heights according to comfort preferences. Within the 3-in-1 set it has a concealed permanent lodging on the lower tray of chair C (except for cushion-less ‘low table’ option).

The cushion is kept in place by passing a cylindrical element through the loops with which it is supplied. All 9 for chair C, 5 of the 9 for chair B, 4 of the 9 for chair A.



009_ISF-1738.jpg



008_ISF-1734.jpg



007_ISF-1728.jpg

Further photographs will be soon available following a photoshoot scheduled at Ristorante Canottieri Lario, Como.

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Background information

Our nesting chair project started in the summer of 2020 following a trip to Schloss Pilniz, on the River Elbe. The idea of seats that nest inside each other like a Russian doll was born on the return boat to Dresden.

Sketches ensued and scale models of nesting chairs (potentially concealed beneath a flap down table) to further save on living space, were made the following summer.

Brianza craftsmen, who prefer to remain anonymous, suggested that a first model should be developed using panels, with due regard to economy in cutting the material.

This constraint would orient design development, for birch ply half-panels, which are delivered in 152*152cm format.

All elements for the 3-in-1 chairs — as varied in appearance as a family photo — are thus cut from one half panel, only 18mm thick. Any serial reproduction in birch ply should consider facing a thinner ply panel with thicker outer faces, milled to the desired thickness.

Estimated weights in birch ply: seat A) 7,5kg / seat B) 5,5kg / seat C) 5,0kg = **18kg** not including cushion.

Likewise, all the elements for six chairs (2*3-in-1) can be cut from 19mm VALCHROMAT® panels which come in two distinct formats: 122*366cm or 183*244cm.

This latter constraint means that orders in any VALCHROMAT® colour need to be placed in even quantities (by pairs). Individual cut elements are milled to 18mm thickness, which improves surface quality and reduces the weight.

Estimated weights in 18mm VALCHROMAT: seat A) 9,8kg / seat B) 7,2kg / seat C) 6,6kg = **23,6kg** not including cushion.

Mechanical resistance to live loads

Of the 3-in-1 set, the item most likely to bear the brunt of wear and tear is of course the largest, chair A.

It is consequently the most fragile, the one whose airy construction requires the most attention.

The birch ply model can be supplied either with compression columns (in turned plywood) bearing on the lower stretchers or with cable hangers.

However, only this latter (tensile) reinforcement is available for VALCHROMAT® editions.

One or other of these reinforcement devices is necessary to prevent excessive traction on the joints through wear and tear.

Indeed, by creating a fulcrum point which reduces the front edge bending moment and inverses the flexion of the live-loaded seat element, the struts serving as backrest are no longer in traction, but solicited in gentle compression.

Commercial considerations

We are aware of the “wow” factor that accompanies reactions on seeing the chairs made and interlocking in either monochrome or *tricolore* combinations. The project is nevertheless complex in design and execution.

To keep costs down, we look to the contract furnishing market. Especially as we believe usable, volume-saving nesting chairs would be much appreciated in the following sectors:

- **Retail** : boutiques and department store where some sort of seating for customers & attendants is needed
- **Hospitality** : hotel bedrooms and foyers in the event of sporadic affluence
- **Residential / medical** : retirement home & hospital bedrooms, particularly for visitors