

Thonet's 200-year celebrations continue at Clerkenwell Design Week

New versions of both classic and contemporary designs take centre stage in Design Fields

For the 2019 edition of London's popular Clerkenwell Design Week, Thonet returns to the Design Fields venue in a party mood. Celebrating both 200 years of Thonet and 100 years of the Bauhaus, the furniture brand with such a distinctive and renowned heritage also looks forward to the next century (or two) in typically authentic style. True to its traditional values yet also conscious of current demands for both work and living spaces, the company remains at the heart of contemporary interior aesthetics and presents subtle yet relevant updates to its bentwood and tubular steel classics, together with new designs inspired by the unique Thonet DNA.

The display at CDW focuses primarily on an extension to the wooden chair range 118, designed by rising star Sebastian Herkner, and a recent seating addition to the Thonet family which honours its legacy of elegance, comfort and quality in a fresh, contemporary style. Following on from the introduction of an upholstered version at the beginning of the year, Thonet now presents six high-gloss lacquered versions which grace the chair with a luxurious finish.

Marcel Besau describes the staging of the new product: "The setting we conceived emphasises the new refinements of the 118 range in its additional colours and, set against textile backgrounds, refers to the 'Café Thonet' theme that is a continuing motif for the Thonet celebrations this year."

Also on display at 'Café Thonet' will be the special Anniversary editions of the famous bentwood chair 214, in a dynamic new two-tone colour scheme, plus a new version of the Bauhaus era side table MR 515 by Mies van der Rohe, each as interpreted by Studio Besau Marguerre. Furthermore, the new 809 armchair, a versatile extension to the welcoming comfort and distinctive style of the 808 Lounge range, will be on show.



Over the course of 2019, Thonet is participating in a series of events that look back proudly on two centuries of leading the field in furniture design, while also embracing a vibrant future for the brand. Thonet furniture can be found all around the world: as cherished heritage pieces, as timeless design benchmarks with a collector's cachet, and as culturally rich icons with perennial style and appeal. The authenticity and value of the extensive Thonet portfolio can be enjoyed wherever people gather, network, relax or work.

Thonet is preparing a warm welcome at Design Fields (Northampton Road, EC1R 0DF from May 21st to 23rd) and looks forward to celebrating with the London design community and fans of iconic furniture... especially as this year is also the 10th anniversary of Clerkenwell Design Week!

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Thonet – future-oriented furniture design with a long tradition

The unique success story of Thonet began with the work of master carpenter Michael Thonet. Since establishing his first workshop in Boppard on the River Rhine in 1819, the name Thonet has stood for high-quality, innovative and elegant furniture. The breakthrough came with the iconic chair No. 14, the so-called Vienna Coffee House Chair: the pioneering technique of bending solid beech wood for the first time enabled the mass production of chairs. The second milestone in design history was the tubular steel furniture by the famous Bauhaus architects Mart Stam, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe and Marcel Breuer in the 1930s. At the time, Thonet was the world's largest producer of these tubular steel furniture designs, which are considered timeless today.

For the company today, the continuous process of innovation stands in the foreground alongside a focus on tradition and fine craftsmanship. Thonet collaborates with renowned national and international designers – in addition, some of the furniture is designed by the in-house Thonet Design Team. All of the furniture is produced in the company-owned manufacturing facility, and, following the motto "Individuality is our standard", custom-tailored solutions are part of everyday life in Frankenberg. Chief Executive Officer Brian Boyd together with Chief Operating Officer Michael Erdelt and Creative Director Norbert Ruf manage the company at the corporate head offices and production site in Frankenberg/Eder (Germany). The descendants of Michael Thonet, the fifth and sixth generations, are actively involved with the company's business as partners and sales representatives.