

Press release
Frankenberg, July 2026

Homely comfort for flexible working environments: the new 521 swivel chair Design: Marco Dessí, 2026

At Orgatec 2026, Thonet will be unveiling its new 521 swivel chair designed by Marco Dessí. This fully upholstered chair combines homely comfort with the functional requirements of modern work, conference and communication spaces. With its inviting design, wide range of configuration options and two versions tailored to different seating scenarios, the 521 is the perfect chair for today's flexible working environments and the growing importance of interaction, dialogue and collaboration.



The 521 is a new addition to the 520 product family designed by Marco Dessí and adopts its distinctive design language. A softly contoured, fully upholstered shell, fluid lines and homely materials lend this swivel armchair its own distinct identity, whilst still unmistakably forming part of the collection.

The 521 is an obvious choice for a wide variety of settings – blending seamlessly into flexible workspaces, conference and meeting rooms, hospitality spaces and home offices. The opening at the back of the chair and the sleek lines of the upholstery emphasise the design's visual lightness, whilst the fully upholstered shell provides exceptional comfort, even during longer meetings and gatherings.

The 521 is available in two versions: the model with five-star swivel base, castors and variable height adjustment is ideal for dynamic working styles in office and co-working environments. The four-star swivel base version features an automatic return function and is a particularly good choice for conference and meeting rooms, although works just as well in a dining space or home office. For added flexibility, this version is also available with optional height adjustment. An integrated inner

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spring provides additional comfort. Both models are fitted with a lockable tilting mechanism as standard.

A particularly distinctive design feature of the swivel armchair is the wooden saddle beneath the upholstered seat. This forms a central element where upholstery and frame merge, the same typical wooden frame used throughout the 520 range. Designer Marco Dessì uses the following metaphor: "With the 520 chair, the design language of the upholstered part emerges from the bentwood element, just as a leaf grows from a branch. With the 521, the leaf alone conveys the essence of the design."

Like the entire 520 range, the 521 swivel chair can also be configured in a variety of ways. The frames are made of aluminium and are available in a polished or black powder-coated finish. A range of wooden shell versions, along with a wide selection of fabric and leather upholstery options, create endless design possibilities so that the 521 can be customised to match almost any design concept.

About Thonet

Thonet has been making furniture for the residential and contract sectors since 1819. With a passion for bentwood and tubular steel, the German company produces iconic designs – from its famous coffee house chair and Bauhaus classics by Mart Stam, Marcel Breuer and Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, to contemporary pieces by leading modern designers. Combining the latest production technology with traditional craftsmanship has made Thonet one of the world's favourite furniture makers. At the Frankenberg factory, innovative products are still being manufactured today, just as they have always been; they are designed for long-term use and are synonymous with the highest level of quality, functionality and a timeless design. The development of durable furniture has always been a defining feature of Thonet's corporate history. From the earliest days, Michael Thonet's first bentwood designs were not just aesthetically remarkable but also bore witness to a particularly thoughtful approach to the use of materials. Moreover, many Thonet furniture pieces last for generations: they are used for decade after decade and can be repaired in Frankenberg if required. Thonet's commitment to sustainable design, which is firmly anchored in its DNA, was recognised in 2024 with the German Ecodesign Award: the iconic 214 coffee house chair picked up the special Timeless Design award in the Product category.

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