

Press release Frankenberg, march 2023

## Cantilevered comfort: Thonet unveils a throwback to the iconic S 32 with a light, compact lounge chair

Thonet's S 32 cantilever chair is one of the most popular and recognisable pieces of tubular steel furniture – a versatile design icon for a variety of settings and styles. The new S 32 lounge chair version brings together architectural lines, a distinct design and yielding comfort. Placed next to a sofa, this lower-level model can make the perfect addition to a relaxing lounge area. Alternatively, it stands out as a statement piece in coworking breakout spaces, elegant reception areas or stylishly designed private homes.



Anyone who has ever taken a seat on a cantilever chair knows the experience is unlike any other: the chair reacts dynamically to your movement, its frame flexing with just the right amount of give. The springiness of the S 32 lounge chair's tubular steel construction is a key part of what makes it so comfortable. This new design combines the typical characteristics of a cantilever chair with those of a lounge chair. The result is a flexible repose, paired with distinctive form and an air of lightness. To further enhance the chair's ergonomics, the seat has been widened (58 cm) and is tilted slightly backwards. The S 32 Lounge chair does not have armrests, creating a relaxed atmosphere with no obvious barriers to communication, wherever it is used.

The seat height of 40 cm means it can harmonise easily with other lounge furniture: the perfect partner for sofas, with the added advantage of appearing both lighter and more compact than upholstered armchairs. Occupying minimal space, the tubular steel frame makes a transparent, open and airy impression. This memorable, minimalist design fits effortlessly into diverse interior settings – from residential to the contract.

This new lounge chair is based on the famous S 32 tubular steel cantilever chair originally conceived by Marcel Breuer in the 1920s. Breuer's chair was distinguished by its use of contrasting materials: Viennese canework, characteristic of Thonet's traditional bentwood furniture, and the least amount required of tubular steel. In keeping with the full S 32 range, the lightweight S 32 Lounge chair is available with either a canework seat (S 32 VL), an upholstered seat (S 32 SPVL), with seat and backrest in synthetic black mesh (S 32 NL) or an upholstered seat and backrest (S 32 PVL).

The S 32 Lounge chair is the ideal addition to the current collection, which consists of classic cantilever chairs with and without armrests, a swivel chair version (Atelier) and barstools in two different heights. This new model now makes it possible to create entire furnishing landscapes with a range of seat heights.



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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. Ever since he established 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, today known the world over as the Vienna Coffee House Chair: the pioneering technique of bending solid beechwood enabled the mass production of chairs for the first time. 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. During those pioneering years, Thonet was the world's largest producer of these tubular steel furniture designs, which are today considered timeless.

For the company today, the continuous process of innovation is the top priority, together with a focus on tradition and fine craftsmanship. Thonet's furniture designs originate both from its collaborations with renowned national and international creatives and from the in-house Thonet Design Team. Chief Executive Officer Brian Boyd and Creative Director Norbert Ruf manage the company from the corporate head office and production site in Frankenberg/Eder (Germany). Michael Thonet's fifth- and sixth-generation descendants are actively involved with the company's business as partners and sales representatives.