

Press release
Frankenberg, January 2020

New surfaces – an even cosier look and feel for the MR 515 side table **Design: Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, approx. 1928, reseen by Studio Besau Marguerre, 2019**

Just in time for imm cologne 2020, the re-edition of the MR 515 side table range is being extended with versions in oak, ash and walnut. In honour of the Bauhaus centenary, the versatile classic was reissued in collaboration with Studio Besau Marguerre – as a re-edition of an original version that featured in Thonet’s tubular steel furniture catalogue of 1935. Originally available with a tubular steel frame and transparent glass top, the series now includes a version with wooden tabletops that brings warmth and naturalness to the range.



Mies van der Rohe probably designed the MR 515 table around 1928 in the context of the commissions for the Esters and Lange houses in Krefeld. Thonet has taken a fresh look at his original and is now presenting new interpretations of the MR 515 by Hamburg-based designers Eva Marguerre and Marcel Besau. The resulting adaptations bring out the elegance of the classic piece with great sensitivity and accentuate the special materials, combining modern usage concepts and technical details with a thoroughly contemporary touch.

The design by Studio Besau Marguerre – classic elegance meets zeitgeist

There’s a special story behind Marcel Besau’s connection with Mies van der Rohe. Besau was born and raised in Krefeld: he grew up with the legendary architect’s work – the Esters and Lange houses were right under his nose, so to speak. His and Eva Marguerre’s interpretation of the table range stays close to the original, but it’s the details that make the difference. Interventions like the remarkably elegant central crossover of the table legs are both subtle and technically sophisticated. Based on their research into the original versions of the table, they also pick up on the idea of an optional lower shelf that gives the series an even cosier look and enhances its functionality.

The colour concept also originates from Studio Besau Marguerre. The classic version with a chrome-plated tubular steel frame and glass top comes closest to Mies van der Rohe’s original design. They also created a completely black version with a powder-coated deep black frame and a grey, almost opaque glass top. In 2020, new tabletops with wood veneers are being added to the range. Available in oak, ash and walnut, these versions of the MR 515 side table will make their debut in Café Thonet at imm cologne.

The new versions in detail

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The original MR 515 side table by Mies van der Rohe is 60 cm high with a tabletop measuring 70 cm in diameter. Its interpretation by Studio Besau Marguerre features round tables in two sizes: MR 516, a bigger, lower version with a diameter of 70 cm and a height of 38 cm, and MR 517, a smaller, taller version with a diameter of 50 cm and a height of 46 cm. On request, these two models are also available with an additional shelf (MR 516/1 and MR 517/1). And other versions are by no means out of the question: historical photos and vintage portals show the design in other sizes and tabletops in entirely different materials.

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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. All the furniture is produced at the company-owned manufacturing facility in Frankenberg where, in line with the motto "Individuality is our standard", customised solutions are part of day-to-day life. 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.