

1926

1929



S 33

S 34

THONET

Design Mart Stam



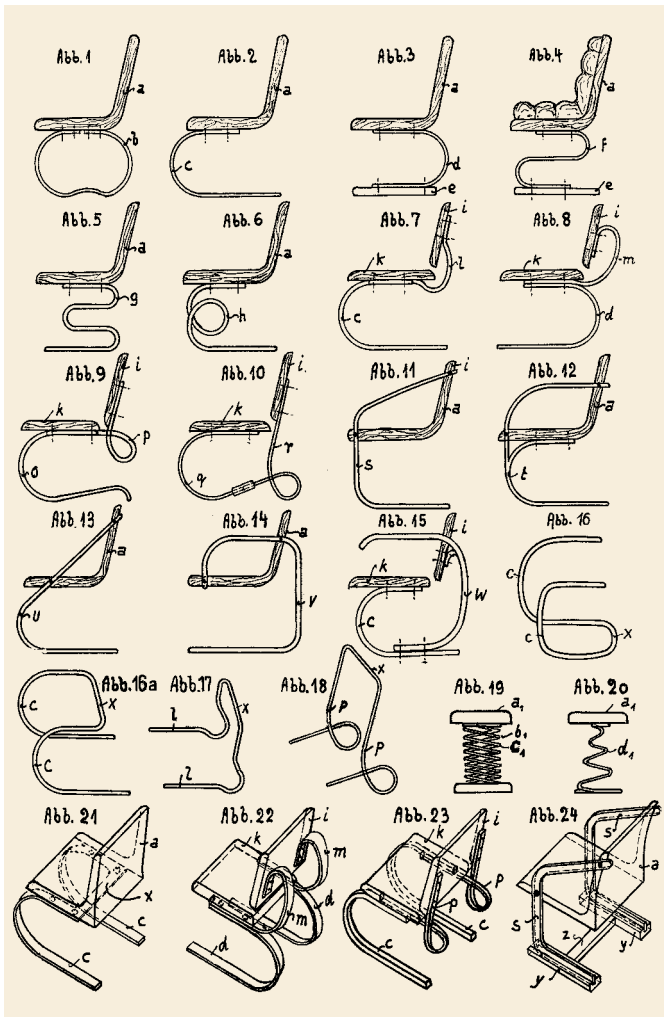


Mart Stam, born 1899 in Purmerend in the Netherlands, was among the leaders of Modern Architecture and a pioneer in contemporary furniture design. He attracted much attention in 1927 with his architectural contribution to the Weißenhof project in Stuttgart both as an architect and as a designer experimenting with tubular steel. In 1928 and 1929 he worked as an architect in Frankfurt, where he helped build the Hellerhof housing estate, among other projects. At the same time he served as a guest lecturer at the Bauhaus, teaching elementary construction theory and urban planning. From 1930 to 1934, Mart Stam was active in Russia and other countries; he subsequently worked as an architect in Amsterdam until 1948. In 1939 he assumed the top position at the Academy of Arts and Crafts in Amsterdam, and in 1950 he was named director of the Conservatory for Applied Art in Berlin-Weißensee. He returned to Amsterdam in 1953 but emigrated to Switzerland in 1977, where he died on February 23, 1986, in Goldach.

Free-swinging instead of anchored on four legs: a new type of chair makes history. In 1926, Mart Stam began experimenting with gas pipes and bent metal, and used them to develop the principle of a cantilevered chair that no longer needed four legs for stability – a first in the history of furniture. When he presented his groundbreaking chair without back legs to the public in 1927, at the opening of the Weissenhof development in Stuttgart, he launched a construction principle that – against the background of the formal restraint called for by the Bauhaus and modern architectural theory – would play an important role in the history of modern furniture design.



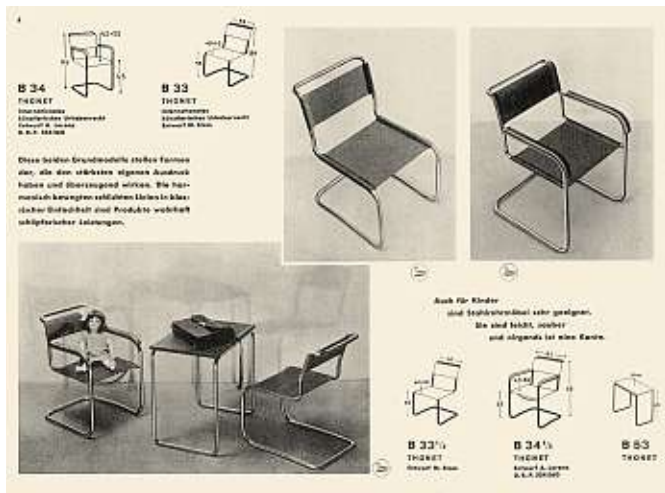




Patent drawings: Mart Stam, 1929

A style asserts itself. At first, Stam was not interested in the flexible, springy effect of cold-bent steel tubing, but was aiming instead for a sleek, functional form that would integrate perfectly into the modern buildings of the era. The first tubular steel furniture was known only to insiders – used only by artists and intellectuals to furnish their private living environments. The triumphant procession followed only in the 1930s: from that point forward, the new chairs, armchairs and tables could be found in stores, shops, offices, showrooms, restaurants, bars and numerous modern homes.

Thonet tubular steel furniture catalogue, 1935



The technological innovation of cold-bent steel

inspired other designers and architects to make new developments. Around 1930, Thonet was the largest tubular steel furniture manufacturer in the world.

The famous card catalogue included designs by Marcel Breuer, Le Corbusier, Hans Luckhardt, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, Mart Stam and numerous in-house models. They all were important elements for the idea of "new living".

After a protracted battle for patents and copyrights to the chair without back legs, Mart Stam was assigned the artistic copyright in 1932. Since then, Mart Stam® has been a registered trademark of Gebrüder Thonet GmbH.

The chair models S 33 and S 34 have been produced by Thonet for more than 70 years, always with the greatest care and in their well-proven quality.





S 33 and S 34: simplicity plus elegance: In all of his chair designs, Mart Stam relied on streamlined forms, aesthetic economy of construction and the benefit of improved seating comfort. The comfortable, rocking effect eliminates the need for upholstery. The seat and back of the chairs are made of leather and are now available also with a new mesh seat and back (made of a synthetic woven material). The armrest of the S 34 is available either in wood or elastomer.



A milestone of industrial furniture production. The technological innovation of swinging tubular steel during the 1930s led the pioneer Mart Stam – similar to Michael Thonet's discovery of bending wood in the 19th century – to a bold and trendsetting design. To this day, Thonet is producing a series of models from that era. All of them are considered classics of furniture history.

S 35 R



Marcel Breuer 1929

B9 a-d



1925/26

S 285



1935

S 533 R



Ludwig Mies van der Rohe 1927

S 533 RF



S 43



Mart Stam 1931

S 43 F



S 40



Thonet 1998 Artistic copyright Mart Stam

S 40 F



S 36



Hans Luckhardt 1931

S 32



S 64



S 32 N



S 64 N



S 32 PV



S 64 PV



Marcel Breuer 1929/30 Artistic copyright Mart Stam

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