

Press Release
Frankenberg, February 2017

Elbphilharmonie – great flexibility for small hall **Thonet furnishes Hamburg concert hall with chair range S 160**



The Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg designed by the Zurich architectural office Herzog de Meuron, which was officially inaugurated in January 2017 with plenty of international interest, fascinates with extraordinary acoustics and its expressive architecture. In addition to the main hall characterised by its “Weinberg architecture”, the concert house also has a smaller hall, which was furnished with Thonet chairs just like the Kaistudio. 760 chairs of range S 160 by Delphin Design provide concert goers with comfortable seating. The beautifully designed chair is especially well suited for the Elbphilharmonie due to its flexibility: it can be stacked quickly and in a space saving way, and it has a sophisticated linking mechanism – thanks to a system especially developed by Thonet, the chairs can be linked easily, safely and without tools. The discrete seat numbering in the backrest and the removable row numbering are ideally suited for furnishing concert halls. The completely black chair version S 162 PVF used for the Elbphilharmonie with leather-covered, fully upholstered seat shells and a matte coated frame with a special seat depth discretely blends the elegantly milled wood panelling of the small hall. Thonet was able to fulfil the strict requirements of acoustician Yasuhisa Toyota by using a special type of leather that was additionally perforated. The various uses of the intimate and versatile hall – ranging from chamber music and song recital evenings to soloist concerts, jazz and world music and to readings, lectures and receptions – are enabled by the excellent technological equipment and flexible seating with the Thonet chair range S 160.

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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. Michael Erdelt is the Managing Director of Thonet GmbH at the corporate head offices and production site 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 managers.