



Belleville

Developed by Vitra in Switzerland
Design: Ronan & Erwan Bouroullec, 2015



'Belleville is a chair as clear as a letter.' Erwan Bouroullec



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vitra.



The brothers Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec live and work in Paris. Their oeuvre ranges from small everyday objects to architectural projects. They have worked with Vitra since 2000 and have contributed numerous designs to both the office and home collections.



Drawings by the designers during the development process



Belleville Chair

Belleville is the name of the vibrant Paris neighbourhood where the designers Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec have their studio. Visual references for the Belleville Chair can be found in the classic French bistro furnishings and lively atmosphere of this Parisian quarter. The chair's familiar shape - even in a contemporary context - might at first be taken for granted, yet it also evokes a sense of mystery and bemusement, since the materiality, construction and fabrication of the chair only become apparent at second glance.

The Belleville Chair is a technically sophisticated chair consisting of two components - a structural frame and a seat

shell. Tracing the calligraphic lines of the legs and back, the slender black frame supports a thin shell that tapers from the wide seat surface into a narrow backrest. This type of construction opens up new perspectives for the materiality of the plastic chair, since the surface of the seat shell is the defining characteristic of the Belleville Chair's identity: available in coloured polypropylene, moulded plywood veneer or with a cover in leather or fabric, the perception of the Belleville Chair is transformed from a plastic chair to a wooden chair to an upholstered chair - and even to an armchair with forward slanting armrests.

Belleville Table

The Belleville Tables are modelled on the typology of the classic bistro table, but thanks to the selection of solid wood, veneer, melamine or HPL table tops, their appearance is highly variable. The slender legs flow in a continuous sweeping line from the splayed bottom along the central column to the table top. In star-shaped or paired configurations, they form bases for small and large bistro tables or dining tables.

The colour and surface texture of the cast aluminium table legs, which have a black powder-coated finish, are nearly indistinguishable from the plastic frame of the perfectly matched Belleville Chair. And since the materials of the table tops and seat shells are either identical or harmoniously coordinated, the tables and chairs form a unified yet diverse group - a hybrid family of furnishings whose materiality resists classification. Thus the tables can be ideally combined with Belleville Chairs in bustling bistro settings as well as sleekly modern galleries or diversely styled home environments.

