

BENCHMARK

Benchmark introduces its OVO Chair collection,

In collaboration with Foster + Partners

British furniture maker Benchmark has launched a new range of chairs to complement its existing OVO furniture collection. Designed by Foster + Partners, the collection comprises an armchair, a stackable side chair, and a lounge chair, each crafted in solid European oak or American walnut.

Designed and made with a focus on sustainability and wellbeing, the warmth and tactility of the chairs match the overall aesthetic of the wider OVO collection, offering a boldness and simplicity that demands a perfection of craft. Marrying ergonomics with a clarity of form, they provide a healthy and carbon neutral solution that is suited to both residential and commercial settings.



The armchair has a refined and pared back aesthetic, with a soft, pillowed finish to the tops of the armrests and softened edges that widen to form the backrest. These armrests have been widened to form a support for a cup or a laptop on the lounge chair, with a deeper, more spacious seat, making it suitable for lobbies, breakout spaces or the home.



The design of the stackable side chair arises from a demand for flexible furniture that can be easily stored away after use. This light, armless version offers a seat for a range of applications such as dining spaces, lecture halls and other multipurpose settings.



Mike Holland, Head of Industrial Design at Foster + Partners comments, “The OVO collection is a celebration of craftsmanship and materiality. From the flexible stacking chair to the ease and comfort of the lounge seat, every piece has been meticulously designed and crafted to fit within the overall OVO aesthetic that serves as a compelling invitation to touch.”

The three pieces come with either a solid timber or upholstered seat as standard. The solid timber seat expresses the grain and natural characteristics of the hardwood, while the upholstered version comes with a choice of soft aniline leather that has received Nordic Swan Ecolabel certification. Rather than plastic foam, the fillings of the upholstered seats use organic lambswool; which is naturally breathable, has anti-microbial properties, and meets British fire standards without the application of toxic fire-retardant chemicals.

The OVO furniture range has been accredited by the International Living Future Institute as ‘LBC Red List Free’ on its Declare label, guaranteeing that no toxic chemicals are used in its manufacture and that it does not emit harmful VOCs. This also means the OVO pieces meet the requirements for WELL Certified buildings.

Independently verified Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) have been published on the collection, which demonstrate the cradle to grave environmental performance of the pieces. All three OVO chairs when made with a solid timber seat are carbon neutral or better. This negative carbon footprint means that they store more carbon than is emitted during their manufacture, distribution and expected use.





OVO ARMCHAIR

Timber Seat

Carbon absorbed	-22.4kg
Carbon emitted	+16.3kg



	OVO SIDE CHAIR <i>Timber Seat</i> Carbon absorbed -21.4kg Carbon emitted +15.2kg	
	OVO LOUNGE CHAIR <i>Timber Seat</i> Carbon absorbed -31.3kg Carbon emitted +22.7kg	

The leather upholstered versions have a low positive carbon footprint of between 10.6kg CO₂ and 14.6kg CO₂. These perform favourably when compared to similar chairs listed on the International EPD System directory, which average 43.9 kg CO₂ equivalent.

“The only meaningful statements on sustainability are those that can be measured and verified,” explains Sean Sutcliffe, founder and MD of Benchmark. “EPD data helps customers make informed and objective sustainable choices. I’m proud that together with Foster + Partners, we’ve developed this range of beautiful chairs that feel great to sit in, are made to last a lifetime, and most importantly, are demonstrably sustainable.”

Made in the UK by Benchmark, the OVO Chair collection will be available in oak with a low-VOC white oil or ebonised finish, and in walnut with a clear oil finish.

Notes to Editors

For further information or image requests, please contact Timothy Anscombe-Bell
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OVO Chair EPD Programme: The International EPD[®] System, www.environdec.com
Programme operator: EPD International AB
EPD registration number: | S-P – 01958 | S-P-03805 | S-P-03806 |

EPD’s on the OVO Chair collection can be downloaded from the Benchmark website.



About Benchmark

A powerhouse of craft, Benchmark are one of the UK's leading furniture-makers. Founded by Terence Conran and Sean Sutcliffe in 1984, the company has a mission to create furniture that contributes to human health and well-being, using natural, sustainable and non-toxic materials. With workshops in Berkshire and Dorset, Benchmark works with many of the world's leading architects and designers on commercial and residential projects. From forest to finished piece, Benchmark are positioned as a leader in sustainable enterprise. Their approach marries forward-thinking design with exemplary levels of craftsmanship and creativity, producing furniture that exudes natural warmth and soul.

benchmarkfurniture.com
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About Foster + Partners

Foster + Partners is a global studio for architecture, urbanism and design, rooted in sustainability, which was founded fifty years ago in 1967 by Norman Foster. Since then, he and the team around him have established an international practice with a worldwide reputation for thoughtful and pioneering design, working as a single studio that is both ethnically and culturally diverse. The studio integrates the skills of architecture with several other disciplines in a collegiate working environment that is similar to a compact university. These diverse skills make them capable of tackling a wide range of projects, particularly those of considerable complexity and scale.

The practice has never drawn a distinction between architecture and industrial design. The point of contact, the thing that you touch, is as important as the broader vision. The industrial design team established in 1980, has developed a wide range of products from door handles to wind turbines; from a fountain pen to the cabin of an executive jet; from a tap to the fit-out of an ocean yacht. Frequently, products are designed in response to a particular project, but they also work directly with clients on product commissions or with companies to develop new products for commercial manufacture.

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