

SIDE GALLERY

GAETANO PESCE (1939 -)



Chair model "Shadow"

Manufactured by Meritalia
Italy, 2007
Polyurethane, vinyl, wood

Measurements

132 cm x 104 cm x 91,4 in x 45,7h cm seat
52 in x 41 in x 36 in x 18h in seat

Provenance

Private collection, Italy

Details

Unique Shadow chair by Gaetano Pesce for Meritalia, created by the injection of polyurethane foam, allowed to free-expand around the negative space of a body form, within the parameters of its covering.

Biography

Italian-born, New York-based architect Gaetano Pesce (La Spezia, Italy - 1939) studied architecture at the University of Venice between 1958 and 1963 and participated in Gruppo N, an early collective dedicated to programmed art on the model of the Bauhaus, he is considered a design pioneer of the 20th century. Spanning over more than half century, his professional career has ranged from teaching architecture at renowned universities to public and private projects, around the world, mixing different disciplines, while always maintaining the basic principle: that modernism is less a style than a method for interpreting the present and hinting at a future in which individuality is preserved and celebrated. Awarded with the prestigious Chrysler Award for Innovation and Design in 1993, among many others, Pesce's multidisciplinary work defies description, furniture fraught with a deeper meaning, they are included in more than 30 permanent collections of the world's leading museums. Every Pesce project is a brave experiment, he values humanity and expression over perfection. His approach to design has marked its history and his works have been celebrated in exhibitions of extraordinary importance. His continuous research in the field of advanced materials, languages and technology has resulted in iconic productions such as the Organic Building in Osaka in 1993 and his Up5 chair.

Concept

The technology surrounding the use of expanded polyurethane normally generates products that maintain the same form. 'Shadow' is free from this restriction; each chair is created without casting, and therefore each chair is a different, unique armchair. 'Shadow' is a perfect example of Pesce's 40-year research into Random Series Production. In this case, the polyurethane expands directly in the textile covering, following a 'body shape', and when it solidifies, it creates structure. As a result of this process, the covering is always twisted in an unpredictable way.