

Polyurethane makes for a unique seating experience

The “Shadow” easy chair by Gaetano Pesce was one of the most eye-catching exhibits at the Salone Internazionale del Mobile 2007 in Milan. The special shape of the seat padding is created by encasing a life-size doll in polyurethane foam.

The easy chair’s outer shape and high degree of comfort is down to Bayfit®, the flexible polyurethane foam system from Bayer MaterialScience. Back in the 1960s, Pesce designed his “Il Piede” seat in the shape of a human foot. This seat – and many other objects in the legendary UP series – was manufactured using flexible polyurethane foam technology, which was a relatively new development back then.

The Shadow production process is quite unique – instead of manufacturing the seat upholstery in a fixed mould in the usual way, the chair’s textile covering is filled directly with the liquid polyurethane mixture. The furniture is given its individual shape by filling out the seat surface with a life-size doll. In doing so, the polyurethane flexible foam encases the silhouette of the dummy, thus forming the seat of the easy chair and creating the “shadow”. The Bayfit® system is supplied directly by the Italian polyurethane systems house BaySystems Italia.

The use of polyurethane in this application shows how versatile and innovative it can be.



[September 20, 2007]

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