

PRESS RELEASE
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KARIMOKU NEW STANDARD PRESENTS NOVELTIES FOR 2024



Japanese design brand KNS (Karimoku New Standard) launches a number of new products by designers Christian Haas, Moritz Schlatter, GECKELER MICHELS and BIG-GAME. Most of the new products were first shown in a comprehensive exhibition at this year's Milan Design Week and are all now part of the permanent KNS collection. All new items once again demonstrate the wide range of uses for KNS furniture in the contract sector and are a response to the different demands placed on furniture in flexible working environments, the hospitality industry and the private sector. The novelties include the Scout Bistro Table Square, the Polar Sofa in 2- and 3-seater versions, as well as extensions to the Spectrum Bench and the Castor Lobby Sofa. All new items are now available to order and most are available in a range of colours and finishes.

KNS is known for its high-quality furniture designs by international designers, combining progressive ideas and excellent manufacturing. In April, KNS presented its novelties for the first time in an installation curated by Swiss stylist Connie Hüsler at the impressive 'Karimoku New Standard in residence' exhibition during Milan Design Week. The new products expand the collection, developed through a dialogue between the forward-looking ideas of designers and Karimoku Furniture's outstanding expertise in the manufacture of wooden furniture.



With the Scout Bistro Table Square, Christian Haas expands the Scout series with a new table version, perfectly adapted to the requirements of highly flexible hospitality environments. The Polar Sofa by Moritz Schlatter is inspired by the Polar Lounge Chair and designed as a 2- and 3-seater sofa. With the Spectrum Bench, GECKELER MICHELS adds a unique piece made of solid Japanese oak in a black and a natural version in pure oak to the collection. The Castor Lobby Sofa System by BIG-GAME is the fully modular version of the Castor Lobby Sofa, allowing countless combinations and is extended by corner units and arm cushions. The Castor Lobby Sofa Plus by BIG-GAME is an evolution of the original Castor Lobby Sofa and is available in 1-, 2- and 3-seater versions. In addition, matching arm cushions are now available for the Castor Lobby Sofa and the Castor Lobby Sofa System.

All of the new products provide a range of possible applications in versatile working environments or in the hospitality industry and once again demonstrate the brand's expertise in the contract market. The new items are now part of the permanent KNS collection and can be ordered from now on.

THE NOVELTIES



Polar Sofa 2-/3-seater
Design: Moritz Schlatter

This monolithic sofa is a development of the Polar Lounge Chair and embraces the same minimalistic design language: clear, round, and soft shapes, are matched with geometric elements. This interplay imparts the lounge chair its characteristic, gentle appearance and strong aesthetic expression. The Polar Sofa is designed for contract applications and to fit in various settings in private and public spaces, from lobbies and co-working spaces to living rooms. Due to its broad curvature and elegant backside, it can be freely positioned within a space. The subtly rounded armrests allow for both upright and relaxed seating positions. Besides the regular KNS fabrics, the sofa is available in the special Kvadrat Febrik Uniform Mélange fabric, offering a unique, soft look and touch. The feet are made from solid, sustainably sourced Japanese oak.

Detailed product information: <https://www.karimoku-newstandard.jp/en/products/polar-sofa-2-seater/>



Castor Lobby Sofa System Corner Units and Arm Cushions
Design: BIG-GAME

With its archetypal and minimal, yet elegant design, combined with superior sitting comfort, the new Castor Lobby Sofa continues the success story of the Castor Family. Castor Lobby Sofa System is the fully modular version of the Castor Lobby Sofa that allows to build countless combinations for lounges, lobbies, socializing- and waiting areas in commercial and public spaces. The range has been extended with the addition of corner units and variations of tables, chairs and stools. From integrated table surfaces, optional armrests and alternating seats facing opposite directions to sofas of infinite length – almost everything is possible. The soft appearance of the cushions is matched with the calm, straight structure in oak wood that looks as good from the back as from the front. The frame comes in a natural finish and for the upholstery, there is a wide selection of fabrics available. The sofa system addresses primarily architects and professional planners. In addition, matching arm cushions are now available for the Castor Lobby Sofa and the Castor Lobby Sofa System.

Detailed product information: <https://www.karimoku-newstandard.jp/en/products/castor-lobby-sofa-system/>

THE NOVELTIES



Castor Lobby Sofa Plus
Design: BIG-GAME

The Castor Lobby Sofa Plus represents an evolution of the original Castor Lobby Sofa, featuring an increased seat depth, fully upholstered sides and back, and a softer seat. With its more homely and relaxed feel, the sofa adapts seamlessly to diverse interiors. Due to its archetypical, minimal yet elegant design, combined with exceptional sitting comfort, this sofa is especially well-suited for living rooms and lounges. It is offered in 1-, 2- and 3-seater versions, with natural color frames and a wide selection of upholstery fabrics.

Detailed product information: <https://www.karimoku-newstandard.jp/en/products/castor-lobby-sofa-plus-2-seater/>



Spectrum Bench 180 / 220
Design: GECKELER MICHELS

The Spectrum Bench serves as a casual yet elegant seating tool that harmoniously complements the Spectrum 190 and 240 tables. Additionally, it can function as a standalone piece in diverse environments. Like the table, the bench's design draws inspiration from the minimalism of Japanese architecture, with its graphical lines, combining beauty with efficiency. Crafted from sustainably sourced solid Japanese oakwood, it is available in two sizes and in a black and pure oak.

Detailed product information: <https://www.karimoku-newstandard.jp/en/products/spectrum-bench-220/>

THE NOVELTIES

**Scout Bistro Table Square****Design: Christian Haas**

The Scout Bistro Table Square is an extension of the Scout Bistro Table series, maintaining the same distinctive details and appearance but with a 60 cm square table top to fit a variety of spaces. The Scout Bistro Table adopts the characteristic details of the Scout Chair, while its simple and elegant appearance allows it to be easily paired with any well-designed chair. Made of Japanese oak, the compact table comes in two standard colors. It features a central leg connected with a solid steel fixture. With its square top, the table is suitable for cafés, restaurants, and small living spaces, especially when multiple tables are arranged side by side.

Detailed product information: <https://www.karimoku-newstandard.jp/en/products/scout-bistro-table-square/>

THE DESIGNERS



BIG-GAME

BIG-GAME is a design studio founded in 2004 by Grégoire Jeanmonod (Swiss, 1978), Elric Petit (Belgian, 1978) and Augustin Scott de Martinville (French, 1980). Based in Lausanne, Switzerland. BIG-GAME designs objects for companies such as Moustache, Galerie Kreo, Praxis or Materia. Their creations are part of the collections of the Zürich Museum of Design, the Musée du Grand-Hornu, the Centre Georges Pompidou as well as the French National Fund of Contemporary Art. Their works have been shown in various exhibitions and been published in major magazines. The book 'BIG-GAME Design Overview' was published in 2008 on the occasion of their first monographic exhibition in a museum. Along with their design practice, the three founders of BIG-GAME are also professors at the ECAL/ University of Arts and Design in Lausanne, and won the Swiss Federal Design Award in 2006 and 2010. The three designers draw on a vast repertory of ideas and put them nonchalantly into unexpected contexts, following the credo "Confrontation is giving birth to progress".



CHRISTIAN HAAS

Born in Germany in 1974, Christian Haas established his Studio in 2000. The Industrial Designer creates ever since products through multiple disciplines from furniture and lighting to porcelain and glassware. His design approach merges simplicity and elegance. His sense of aesthetics is driven by the harmony between sobriety, usefulness, emotionality, longevity and uniqueness. The Studio works for international brands such as Rosenthal, Karakter, Arita2016 and Tecta as well as for selected design galleries. Throughout the years, his work was honored with awards like the Red Dot Design Award and the Elle Decoration International Design Award. Notable works include the lighting edition ROPES, part of Vitra Design Museum's permanent collection; the broad furniture range for Japanese producer Karimoku New Standard and some of the most successful tableware series of the past 10 years. Christian Haas lives and works in Porto, Portugal.

THE DESIGNERS



GECKELER MICHELS

Geckeler Michels explores product functionality around human habits, with a forecasting eye on ever evolving usages and market demands. The duo articulates innovative positions, deliberately embracing history of design, contemporary technologies and digital design methods. Geckeler Michels' functionalist approach is typically complemented by an intriguing detail or logic, lending the product a thrilling and thus long-standing narrative. David Geckeler and Frank Michels established their Berlin based design studio in 2013. Areas of work include furniture, lighting, products and spaces.



MORITZ SCHLATTER

Moritz Schlatter (*1976) was born in Switzerland and trained as an industrial designer in Zurich. After working for several international design studios, he founded his own design studio in Zurich in 2010, where he was active in the fields of products, furniture and art. Since 2016 he has been based in Tokyo, working as a freelance designer and as an associate designer with the Japanese architect Keiji Ashizawa. In his work he focuses on everyday objects for everyone, looking for simplicity and clarity as well as the controlled evocation of feelings and joy. He has worked with a number of manufacturers in Switzerland, China and Japan, received several awards and exhibited at various venues in Germany, Switzerland and Tokyo.



NOTES FOR EDITORS

ABOUT KARIMOKU NEW STANDARD

Founded by Karimoku Furniture in 2009, KNS (Karimoku New Standard) is defined by its fusion of progressive ideas and manufacturing excellence. Bringing together the unique perspectives of Karimoku Furniture craftsmen and a select group of international designers, the brand presents new standards in Japanese furniture design. KNS's pursuit of high-quality furniture includes responsible production, starting with the material itself and thus focusing on the sustainable utilization of Japan's hardwoods, forest conservation, and revitalization of the forestry industry. Over the past decade the brand has evolved through its collaborative approach and the belief that true standards should not only be universal, but exemplary in nature. This philosophy continues to inspire creative director David Glaettli and the brand's designers and craftsmen, who strive to create innovative furniture of the highest quality, imbued with a sense of joy.

www.karimoku-newstandard.jp

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