



Varilounge Christophe Pillet

CHRISTOPHE PILLET

Lucidity in expression, elegance and sophisticated cleverness and simplicity — these are some of the virtues that have made Christophe Pillet a big name not least in the fashion industry, where the power of seduction is essential. His interior design clients include Lancel, Lacoste, Malandrino and John Richmond, as well as a number of high-profile boutique hotels around the world. He started his career as a designer in Italy and worked for the legendary Memphis Group and the Starck agency, among others, before establishing his own studio in 1993, through which he has earned global renown, designing for a large number of prominent clients worldwide.



The fundamental vision behind Christophe Pillet's new *Varilounge* sofa system was to create a seating furniture series for public spaces with the softer, elegant, sensual and extremely comfortable feeling typically associated with the home.

"IT'S INTERESTING THAT hard contract furniture usually has a very hard look, too," says Christophe Pillet. "It's usually not at all comfortable, much less cozy or sensual. That is a pity. What's right for the home is actually right for every purpose. We wanted to offer domestic comfort, appearance and emotion, with a smooth softness, but inserted into a tough public context."

The world of contract interiors certainly places entirely different demands on a piece of furniture than that of the home. *Varilounge* is designed not to look technological, but is in fact a technologically advanced product based on a strong steel tube structure. The upholstered parts are all recyclable and can be easily replaced when needed, creating a brand new piece of furniture.

"It's of course a whole different story with a sofa at home, where you may sit for a couple of hours a night, than a sofa in an airport, where hundreds may sit every hour," says Christophe Pillet. "In fact, it's a very heavy duty construction, but using new, light, very strong →



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In collaboration with designers and architects from around the globe, we develop furniture with sustainable, functional and attractive design for all meeting places. Our operations are built on a genuine local craftsmanship tradition which we combine with the latest technological advances.

qualities of steel to still achieve a soft, light impression. It's an idea inspired by the automobile industry, where the same model can look and function equally well for private use as when driven professionally, for example as a taxi. It should look as good and be as comfortable as domestic furniture, but with super-functionality for heavy use."

Our *Varilounge* series includes a high easy chair, a low easy chair and a sofa which can be combined and customized for a wide variety of uses and styles, as well as for domestic environments. The system shows elements of so-called mini-architecture, a field in which Offecct has been a pioneer. It also features innovative solutions for flexible electricity outlets, so important today when many public spaces are work hubs.

The same system can create both higher and lower units. The construction is extremely durable, while all soft parts use minimal material and can be swiftly exchanged and recycled, with endless options for customization.

"You may see *Varilounge* as a next generation mini-architecture system," says Anders Englund, Design Manager at Offecct. "This means that it can be used to create mini rooms in chaotic public environments with a softer, more cozy and homey micro-atmosphere. The sofas and chairs really are extremely comfortable, framing the body in a very pleasant way."

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