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MADE



ITALY

**Can the design
powerhouse stay
on top of the global
marketplace?**

IN PRODUCTION

WRITTEN BY
Belinda Lanks

MANUFACTURER
Offecet
www.offecet.se

HEIGHT
30.3 inches

SEAT HEIGHT
17.7 inches

WIDTH
22.4 inches

DEPTH
20.9 inches

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We spent a lot of time determining the best way to connect the different components. The legs are screwed and locked into holes underneath the seat, and the backrest plugs into the seat using an automatic locking system. We made sure that when you sit down, the legs don't wobble.

Robo-Craft

Luca Nichetto's new stacking chair may be the first-ever furnishing inspired by kissing robots.

Designers, perhaps to satisfy the journalists who write about them, often cite many influences. But Luca Nichetto may be the first to claim inspiration from a pop video—Björk's "All Is Full of Love," a 1999 clip in which the Icelandic singer appears as a robot and, in a moment worthy of Jacques Lacan, proceeds to make out with her twin. Aside from sparking countless erotic fantasies around the globe, the video moved Nichetto to design a stacking chair for Offecet composed, like Björk's humanoid form, of components with exposed joints. Since the structure allows Robo to be shipped flat-packed, it also meets the Swedish company's stringent sustainability standards.

The choice of materials further underscores Offecet's commitment to the environment. At first, Nichetto intended to draw from Scandinavian tradition and construct the chair from plywood wrapped around a metal frame; Offecet, however, thought to supplement the wood with a compressed textile made of recycled plastic bottles. (The plywood-textile composite also turned out to be the winning option in terms of cost.) The collaborative process thrilled the Italian designer, who says he relishes finding unexpected solutions to technical problems. "I want intrigue. I want to discover new materials and understand everything that is possible." Here he tells the engineering story behind his Robo chair, available in white and black. 



LUCA NICHETTO (b. 1976) studied industrial design at the University Institute of Architecture of Venice. In 1999 he followed in the footsteps of his grandfather, a glassblower, by designing Murano products for Salviati. Since opening his studio, Nichetto & Partners (www.lucanichetto.com), in 2006, he has worked with such companies as Casamania, Established & Sons, Foscarini, and Moroso.

Since comfort is super important, we modeled the seat and back out of polystyrene before deciding on a final shape. Only once we found the right ergonomics did we produce the mold for the chair.



Other sustainable practices include using nontoxic glues and water-based paints.

Offecet specializes in furnishing public spaces, so when I designed Robo I thought it would look good not only in a modernist house but in, say, an airport. I tried to design with strong language, but not too strong, because I really wanted it to work in all interiors.