



KLOK, a new generation of chairs for collective spaces

The new chair designed by Stephen Philips (ARUP) for Sellex is a comfortable seating solution that combines design and sustainability.

Contemporary collective spaces are in constant transformation. New ways of working, interacting and inhabiting require furniture solutions capable of adapting to changing contexts without losing aesthetic or functional coherence. Within this framework, KLOK emerges — the new chair designed by Stephen Philips (ARUP) for Sellex — a seating programme conceived to respond to current needs while anticipating those of the future.

KLOK represents a further step in the evolution of multipurpose furniture, an area in which Sellex has made a significant contribution over recent decades. As the designer explains, the aim was to develop a chair that would build on this legacy while being “firmly rooted in the evolving needs of today reflected in changing spaces, behaviours and expectations.”

The result is a collection that combines a calm, timeless presence with great versatility of use. Its flared silhouette — from which it takes its name, klok, meaning “bell” in Dutch — provides a recognisable and approachable identity, with a soft, organic form that introduces a more human dimension into spaces.

KLOK, form and function in balance

At first glance, KLOK conveys a sense of simplicity, yet this is far from the case. As Stephen Philips points out, although the chair appears simple in form, its geometry is the result of precise work to achieve the right balance of flexibility and support. The circular shape of the seat encourages a natural posture and allows users to move freely, adapting to different ways of sitting.

Design and engineering come together to create “a clean, organic form” with a silhouette that is both modern and timeless. “Its soft, flared outline also gives the chair a quiet sense of familiarity, adding a subtle emotional resonance to its technical precision,” explains the designer.

A versatile collection for multiple environments

KLOK is conceived as a complete seating programme including different typologies: basic chair, versions with arms, wooden bases, sled frames and pyramidal configurations with glides or castors.

Available fully upholstered or with an upholstered seat, it stacks up to 6 units on the floor and 12 on a trolley, and can be fitted with an upholstery protector to help preserve the material.

This diversity allows the collection to adapt to a wide variety of environments, from cafés and restaurants to libraries, training rooms, offices and collaborative spaces. In addition, the option to include accessories such as a writing tablet, linking piece or transport trolley further expands its applications, enabling row or group configurations for conferences, meetings or workshops.

Weighing just 5 kg, KLOK stands out for its lightness and is designed for intensive and dynamic use, where flexibility and ease of handling are key.

Sustainability embedded in the design

Sustainability has been a fundamental aspect in the development of KLOK. In line with ARUP's design principles and Sellex's Range100/100, the collection includes versions made from 100% recycled and recyclable polypropylene.

This approach reduces the environmental impact of the product without compromising performance or durability. The programme also explores the use of natural materials such as wood, both in shells and bases.

A shared understanding in the design process

KLOK continues the collaboration between Stephen Philips and Sellex, which began with the HANDY Stool. That first piece established the foundations of a dialogue based on mutual understanding between design and industry, now consolidated in this new collection.

The development process of KLOK has been deeply collaborative, combining research, prototyping and continuous evaluation between the ARUP team and Sellex. The designer himself highlights the quality of this relationship, in which both parties share a common vision of design.

For its part, the Basque company, accustomed to working with designers, values how "easy" it is to collaborate with Stephen. "He is collaborative, always willing to help and contribute with his knowledge and professionalism, as well as being a very approachable person," note the Sellex team.

With KLOK, Sellex adds to its catalogue a proposal that engages with its existing collections while opening up new formal and functional possibilities. In Philips' words, KLOK "is a chair designed for what's next" — a definition that captures its forward-looking nature.

The result is a versatile family of seating, adaptable to multiple environments and with a clear identity, expanding the possibilities of the Sellex catalogue in contemporary collective spaces.

About Sellex

Sellex, founded in San Sebastián (Spain) in 1977, is dedicated to honest design furniture for public spaces. It collaborates with internationally renowned designers to develop versatile, functional and durable solutions. With more than 3,000 installations, it is present in over 40 countries, integrating eco-design into its processes. Its Beyond Design philosophy understands design as a timeless, technical and sustainable response to contemporary needs.

About Stephen Philips

Stephen Philips leads the product design team at Arup in London, an international engineering and design firm founded in 1946. With more than 25 years of experience in human-centred design, he joined Arup in 2008. He has developed projects for London's transport network, efficient lighting systems and sustainable solutions. His work has been recognised with awards such as Red Dot, iF and the German Design Council. He is the author of *The Industrial Resolution*.