

Inauguration of the Vitra Designweg:

A new connection between the city centre and the Vitra Campus

The city of Weil am Rhein is gaining a new attraction: the Vitra Designweg. Installed on 12 May, this path leads directly from the tram stop in the centre of Weil am Rhein to the Vitra Campus. The route is marked by twelve revolving columns that showcase a selection of Miniatures, scale models of classic furniture designs. The glass columns were conceived by the designers Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec and present highlights of modern furniture design from the renowned collection of the Vitra Design Museum. They offer an overview of nearly 200 years of furniture history, from the famous nineteenth-century Vienna Coffee House Chair by Thonet, to pieces by Le Corbusier or Charles and Ray Eames, to contemporary design icons. As an educational trail, the Vitra Designweg enriches the urban landscape and conveys an important topic of cultural history. The walk begins at the final stop of tram line 8 and runs along the pedestrian path next to Basler Strasse and Müllheimer Strasse to the south entrance of the Vitra Campus.

The Vitra Designweg creates an even closer link between the Vitra Campus and its environs. While the »24 Stops« trail, conceived by artist Tobias Rehberger, has connected the company premises with the Fondation Beyeler via the Tüllinger Hill since 2016, the new path defines an axis to the city centre and farther on into Basel. From the Swiss side, tram line 8 offers a fast and easy means of public transport for visitors coming from Basel, who will experience the Vitra Designweg as an inspiring foretaste of the campus. But for the local population as well, the path is a new public asset, as it will make an array of iconic designs from the museum's collection accessible to all of Weil's citizens and visiting guests from around the world.

The Miniatures Collection

The furniture miniatures produced by the Vitra Design Museum have acquired cult status. In 1992 the museum began to reproduce meticulously handcrafted design classics at a scale of 1:6, replicating even the smallest details of their original counterparts. Whether as accessories for design fans, collectibles for design devotees or study objects for scholars, the miniatures make designs that were often produced in very limited editions available to a larger circle of collectors and enthusiasts. The objects are available in the Vitra Design Museum Shops on the Vitra Campus and at www.design-museum.de/shop.

About the designers Ronan & Erwan Bouroullec

Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec are among the most influential designers practising today. Born in the French town of Quimper in 1971 and 1976, respectively, the brothers have worked together as partners in their Paris-based design studio since 1999. Their oeuvre ranges from small utilitarian objects to architectural projects. In addition to their longstanding collaboration with Vitra on the Home Collection, the Bouroullec brothers have been represented on the Vitra Campus since 2018 with two works installed on the public grounds. The objects 'Ring' and 'Ruisseau' invite visitors to prolong their visit to the campus in Weil am Rhein: Ruisseau is a narrow channel carved into a marble

base and filled with running water. Ring is a circular platform made of galvanised steel, which appears to float above the ground. Encircling a cherry tree, it serves as collective bench.

Miniatures selection for the Vitra Designweg:

Gebrüder Kohn & Thonet, Schaukelsessel No. 9, 1882

Gerrit Rietveld, Rood blauwe stoel, 1918

Marcel Breuer, B3 Wassily, 1925

Mies van der Rohe, MR 20 Leder, 1927

Alvar Aalto, Art. 41 »Paimio«, 1930

Eero Saarinen, Womb Chair & Ottoman, 1946

Harry Bertoia, Diamond Chair, 1952

Charles & Ray Eames, Lounge Chair & Ottoman, 1956

Verner Panton, Panton Chair, 1959

Grete Jalk, Laminated Chair, 1963

Eero Aarnio, Ball Chair, 1965

Frank Gehry, Little Beaver, 1987

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