

REX, the first Dutch Deposit Chair

design: Ineke Hans, production: Circuform



REX

A multi-awarded chair designed by Ineke Hans gets a second life by Circuform.

Circuform is a new brand that gives industrially designed furniture a circular life: to minimise the use of expensive new raw materials and to maximise reuse. REX has many lives and is the first Dutch deposit chair.

The second life of REX

Circuform relaunched an award-winning design by Ineke Hans from 2011. The result is REX. The design has constructively been worked out as intended. The injection moulds are re-engineered for recycled material, the chair is sustainable and fully recyclable. A network of deposit stations is introduced where chairs can be returned for a refund. Chairs are checked, cleaned, repaired when necessary and re-sold, again with a deposit. Broken chairs are shredded into valuable raw material for new production.

REX, the first Dutch deposit chair

If we want to move to a circular economy we also have to think about other economic systems. Circuform gives industrially designed furniture a circular life, aims to minimise the use of expensive new raw materials and to maximise reuse and takes responsibility for what they produce.

REX is the first Dutch deposit chair. With REX a network of deposit stations is introduced where chairs can be brought back for a guaranteed € 20 refund. Returned chairs are checked, cleaned, repaired when necessary and re-sold, again with a deposit. Broken chairs are shredded into valuable raw material for new production.

REX is designed for the contract market and for domestic use. In 2011 the production of the chair was not taken care of as intended (wrong moulds and material). In 2020/21 the injection moulds were re-engineered for recycled material. The production has the lowest possible ecological impact and REX is made from recycled industrial waste such as office chair components, fishing nets or carpets.

It proved that Italy was the best place to produce REX in Europe. The moulds and production of REX could be developed in times of corona due to the fact that regular production came a bit to a standstill. Transport of REX to The Netherlands takes place by train to lower the transport footprint.

The deposit system uses existing distribution networks in the contract and furniture world. REX was launched in The Netherlands in October 2021. At the time of its launch Circuform had 12 deposit stations in The Netherlands, which has increased with deposit stations in Belgium and some in Germany.

DESIGN

The chair is designed with a separate seat and back. The back is flexible which makes the chair enjoyable for tall, small, fat and thin people. The seat and back can be replaced if needed or desired. The chairs can be stacked and placed in rows with or without arms. The arms make a nice surface when they stand next to each other.

INNOVATION

The design is one aspect, but most innovative are the recycle, re-use and distribution strategies behind REX. How much preferred to be otherwise, furniture is regularly used for short periods

because circumstances change. The contract market has pop-up offices, or temporary offices. In the domestic market there are moves, or personal circumstances.



Circuform takes responsibility for its production and takes the plastic back at local collection points. It was explicitly set up to minimise the use of expensive new raw materials and to maximise reuse. Plastic is a wonderful material. It makes REX a good chair for canteens, kitchens and lecture theatres, and allows the springy back. Too little of our plastic is recycled though (in 2020 in most northern European countries only 19%). The guaranteed refund is in fact for the material that can be used again as resource for production instead of ending up as waste.

IMPACT

REX is the first Dutch deposit chair and sets an example to the industry by organizing not only its distribution TO the users but also the distribution FROM the users. By doing so Circuform takes care of its used materials and guarantees re-use and recycling of the materials.

REX also wants to make users aware of what, how and where they use furniture and goods. A special photo series was made with Annegien van Doorn to make REX' second life transparent for a wider audience. As a model in overalls, the designer shows the different stages in the recycling process, provided with short texts, see gallery images, [SEE](#)

EXCITING

Exciting is that REX found its way into 5 museum collections since its introduction in October 2021: Vitra Design Museum Weil am Rhein, Neue Sammlung München, Design Museum Gent, Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, Museum Boijmans van Beuningen Rotterdam

REX also won several Awards: winner 2022 Dutch Design Awards (product), 2022 Bundespreis Ecodesign (service), 2022 Winner GIO Awards, 2022 shortlisted Design Awards (seating, last 5 out of 5400) and REX is nominated for the 2023 Green Product Award.

More exciting is that REX has a second life and performs on various levels:

First of all Circuform focuses on GOOD design and not only on NEW design, thus a 10 year old chair flourishes now as it was meant to be.

Secondly the story about REX is not only about the design, but about the strategies, services and networks behind the scene of production and consumerism, to enable circular designed products in our world.

About Circuform & Ineke Hans

Circuform – a new furniture brand – gives industrially designed furniture a circular life. A collection of old legends and new heroes in Dutch design, makes a positive contribution to a sustainable world.

www.circuform.com

Ineke Hans – a leading Dutch Designer – designs for international clients furniture, products, exhibitions and public space and explores new design strategies and product typologies for our future. She is professor *Design & Social Context* at the University of the Arts in Berlin.

www.inekehans.com



URL's

Company: www.circuform.com

Designer: www.inekehans.com

Short animation: <https://vimeo.com/704887812>

INSTAGRAM

https://www.instagram.com/circuform_

<https://www.instagram.com/studioinekehans>

- - Receive a full PRESSFOLDER with info, images & films via: info@inekehans.com - -

Short descriptions to the photos (photography: Annegien van Doorn):

1. an award winning good design gets a second life
2. fishing nets, office chair components and industrial waste is used a second time
3. production of chairs with lowest ecological impact in re-engineered moulds
4. you can always return the chair locally for a guaranteed deposit of € 20,00
5. deposit chairs are checked, cleaned, optionally fixed and sold again with deposit
6. broken deposit chairs are shredded as valuable resource for second production



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Circuform first deposit stations (autumn 2021):



In 2022:

distribution in Belgium, France and Germany started and interest from US and Korea came up



