



IN BETWEEN

by Sami Kallio

Materials: Solid wood and formpressed veneer
Dimensions: H: 770 mm, W: 580 mm, D: 540 mm
Armrest height: 700 mm, seating height: 450 mm
Colours: White oiled oak, Smoked oiled oak,
Stained black ash, Stained grey ash
Design date: 2013

The interplay between positive and negative space is central to In Between, Sami Kallio's new chair for &Tradition. Its back and side panels provide a concrete shape and support, but forms are created equally by the gaps in between them. In Between has a low-swung, crescent back- and armrest and a very slightly pitched seat pan. Both are balanced by the dynamically angled legs, resulting in an equilibrium of forms that makes In Between a contemporary design classic.

Kallio's expertise in traditional woodworking craftsmanship is evident in his new chair. In Between is produced using two classical techniques; compression moulding (making it light and thin, yet strong) and woodturning (a technique that uses a lathe to achieve greater detail). The materials are ash and oak, both of which respond particularly well to the techniques used. The production of In Between involves modern industrial manufacturing processes and certain interventions by the human hand; a harmony of innovation and tradition.

To admirers of mid-century Danish design, In Between's lightness and semicircular top rail may echo the work of Hans Wegner (1914-2007), a designer whose work Kallio cites as a subconscious inspiration. In contrast to Wegner's 1949 Wishbone Chair (also known as the Y Chair), In Between has a more daring pitch, and a more graphic, modular character. In form and technique alike, In Between gives a respectful nod to the past, but ultimately looks forward.

“I’M FASCINATED BY A PRODUCT’S FORM AND PRESENCE IN THE ROOM. HOW ARE THE GAPS IN THE DESIGN PERCEIVED? IT’S ALL ABOUT BALANCE, DISTANCE AND PROPORTION.”

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Tradition:

Sami Kallio (b. 1975) was born in Helsinki, Finland, and moved to Gothenburg, Sweden, at the age of two. He completed the Swedish high school joiner programme and studied fine art for two years, before embarking on a BA and MA in design at the School of Design and Crafts in Gothenburg. An exchange year at the Helsinki School of Arts, Design and Architecture in 2004 helped maintain the contact with his Finnish roots. In Kallio’s own words, his work combines the melancholy of the Finnish design heritage with the humour of the Swedish tradition.

Innovation:

In 2009, Kallio co-founded the Gothenburg-based furniture manufacturer Brikolör. The company aims to produce furniture with a guaranteed technical durability of 300 years. In 2011, he established Sami Kallio Studio, and launched his first collection, The Finnish Blood in Me. &tradition first came across Kallio when this work was exhibited at the Stockholm Furniture and Light Fair. With his solid grounding in the traditional woodworking techniques of Scandinavia and his eye for ingenious detail, Kallio seemed the ideal candidate to design the first wooden chair in &tradition’s stable, In Between.

Kallio’s grandparents worked in a Finnish textile factory, which he visited as a child, and he clearly remembers the industrial functionalism of the fittings there. Much later, it served as inspiration for the Workshop lamp from his collection The Finnish Blood in Me.