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\$19.95 USA
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THE GREAT INDOORS

EVENT IS NOW

Magic or marketing?



Jaime Hayon

'PEOPLE ARE AFRAID
OF WHAT'S NEW'

Alexandre de Betak

HOW INSTAGRAM CHANGED
LIVE ACTS FOREVER

Offices

THE FUTURE
IS FLEXIBLE

Opening Ceremony

FACE TO FACE WITH
FASHION'S DREAM TEAM



Sketches by Mario Ruiz demonstrate the conception and development of Gabo, his new sofa design for Palau. The high-back model blocks both sight and sound to provide privacy for conversation in open-plan office environments.



Full Circle

Palau launches new designs in its ongoing collaboration with Spanish designer Mario Ruiz.

AT Orgatec 2014, Palau introduced pieces by Spanish designer Mario Ruiz. Gabo, a family of sofas and armchairs, features clean, strong lines that are accentuated by an optional raised backrest or 'hood'. Responding to an obvious need within large open-plan workplaces, the high-back Gabo can be paired with an identical model to create a semiprivate space for casual meetings and impromptu discussions. Ruiz explains that he 'wanted to achieve a sofa with a buoyant feeling' – an object that appears to be lightweight. By designing the arms and back as a single piece, Ruiz came up with a seating solution that he sees as 'an armchair that has become a sofa'.

Blue is a collection of upholstered chairs with or without headrests; bases are in stainless steel or solid wood. The latest model is the Blue conference chair, with casters or a fixed base. The designs are the result of Palau's involvement in the contract market, says Palau director Rolf Voorhuis. 'Working with clients who want to customize existing designs to complete their various projects, we see what is in demand,' he says, 'and it's that demand that leads to our latest products.'

Voorhuis and Ruiz met at Orgatec in 2010, where they quickly recognized a mutual ambition to create furniture that would merge warm, homely aesthetics with office sensibilities. 'Even when a product is designed for the office, it has to have a soft feeling, a human feeling,' says Voorhuis. 'What I like in Mario's work are his rounded forms and good sense of balance. He's an erudite guy. He follows your train of thought and then takes it in all sorts of directions.' For a Dutch company whose name means 'palace' in Catalan, a fruitful collaboration with a Barcelona-based designer is a fitting continuation of Palau's story. — MH

palau.nl



The Blue armchair marked the beginning of the collaboration between Palau and designer Mario Ruiz. A conference chair version was presented at Orgatec 2014.