

The folding chair "XX": from the project to the product in 104 images

by Diego Valazza

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The monography is referred to the apprenticeship attended with the Cappellini Firm S.P.A. in the office "Research and Development", where I had the possibility to follow innumerable projects' development, from the idea to the realization, coming into contact with many materials which are today used in the range of furniture.

This experience has been very important for me : it permitted me to know and collaborate with designer from all over the world, young artists unknown and highly reputed planner ; but above all I have known simple people, artisans who carry their job passionately, desiderous of teaching, to who are interested, their enchanting work's secrets.

The folding chair "XX"

I have selected this plan because it is the one that engaged me more and it represents at best what I have done during my apprenticeship.

This folding chair, designed by Architect Alfredo Haberli, was born in blew plastic but, because of an unsuitable company background, we decide to make it in aluminium. The project therefore has been revised in many points: first of all the adjustment of the thickness and the realization of the mechanism that regulates the central articulation.

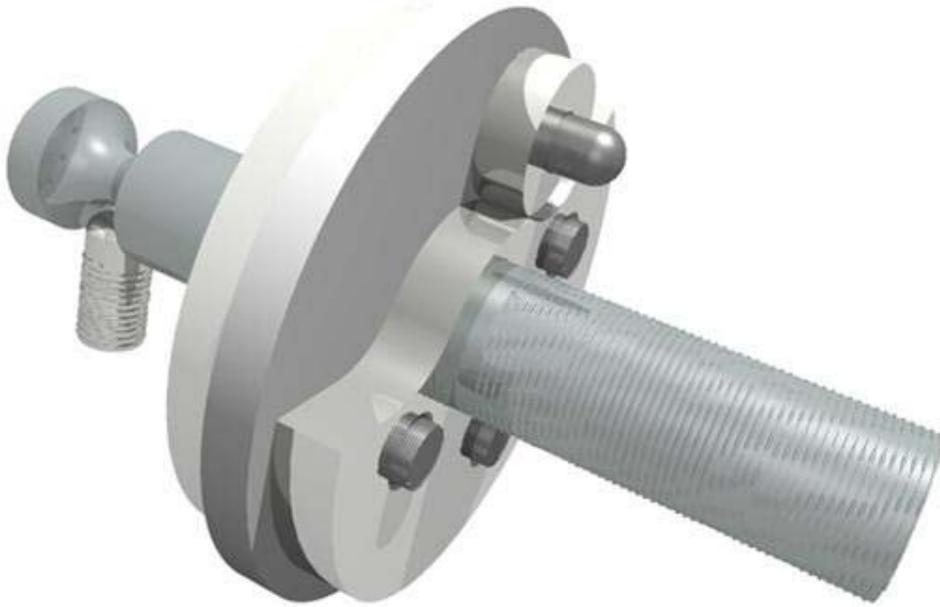
We always worked following designer's guidelines, told during meetings: final chair's profile should have to remember an airscrew, the cap containing articulation should have to be invisible by users. To do this we had to produce four different aluminium prototypes and this allowed me to understand many secrets about aluminium casts.



[image 1] Chronological sequence of cap's transformation; prototype 1 was made using blew plastic chair's drawings; prototype 2 was rejected because it did not respect designer's guidelines; prototype 3 is the one that took us to the chair's realization.

The progressive reduction of thickness and designer's will made the realization of the central articulation very hard. After estimating all the aspects, we decided to make it in steel, not connected to the structure and in which there are no components already on sale.

Peculiarity of this articulation is the spring mechanism that blocks the chair either when it is open or when it is closed.



[Image 2] Articulation rendering.

The final result has been so much convincing that the Architect Haberli, in many interviews, shows himself satisfied for the work carried out and the folding chair has been presented in the showroom Cappellini on the occasion of "Salone del Mobile" in Milan, in 2001.



[Image 3] Folding chair "XX", design: Arch. A. Haberli, production: Cappellini.

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