

Chair No.14
Micheal Thonet



Open Elective
Furniture Design
Submission

Annua

On July 16 1842, the Austrian court granted Micheal Thonet the right to **“bend any type of wood, even the most brittle, into the most desired forms and curves by chemical and mechanical means”**.

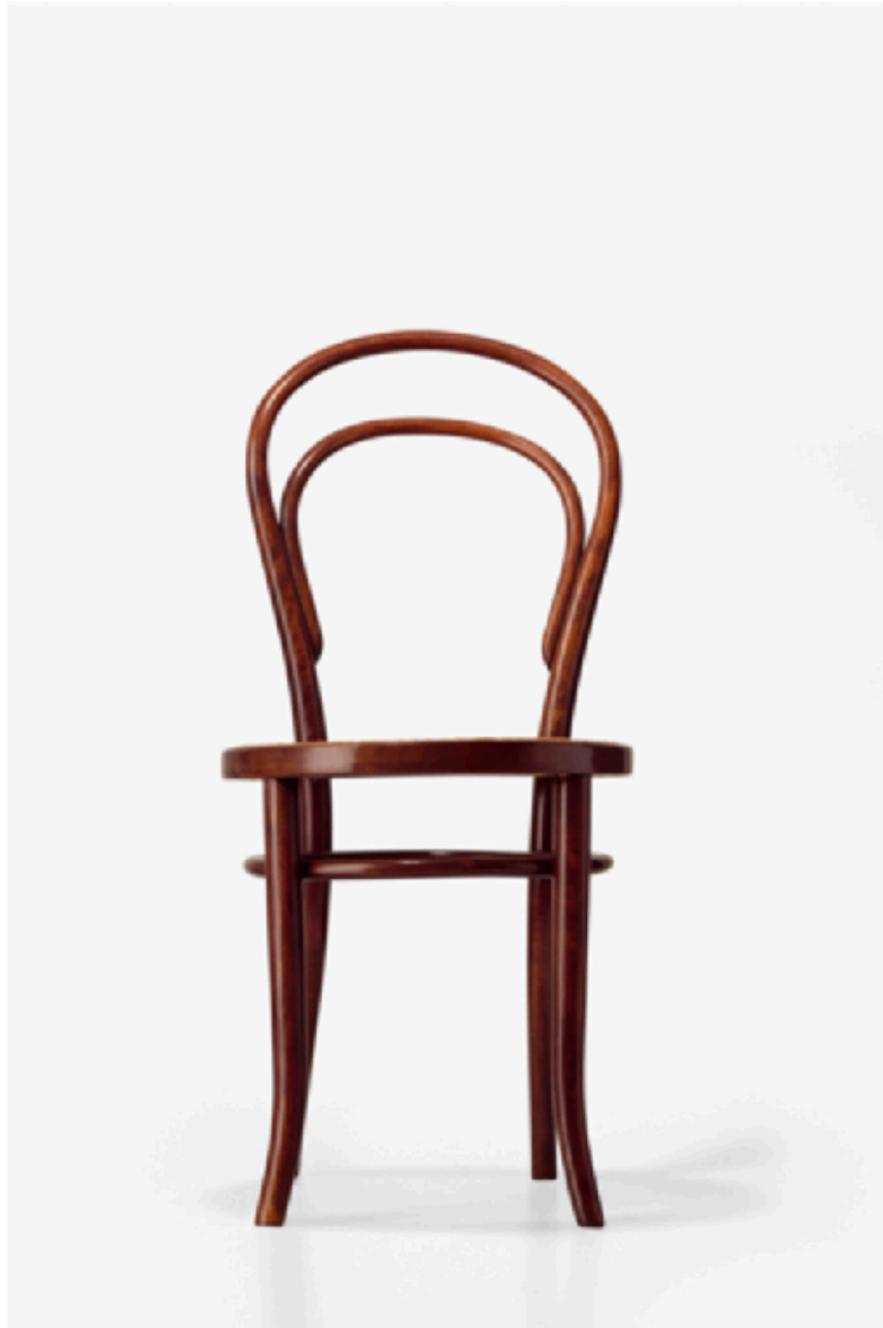
Popularly called **bentwood** furniture for the technique used of bending wood with steam - perfected by Micheal Thonet in 1860.

The first **mass-produced** piece of furniture.

The first chair to be sold in pieces to be assembled by the end-user because of its simplicity of using only 6 pieces 6 bolts to connect them together. - **modularity**

The first bentwood chairs were created in Austria by Michael Thonet who became preoccupied by the idea of bending wood to make a simple chair. Having experimented with laminated wood and glue, the breakthrough came when he discovered that steaming wood within a metal brace meant that solid wood held its shape when cooled. The resin would hold whatever curve was required.

Perhaps the earliest example of flat-pack furniture, it was easy to ship, hence its prevalence around the world. By 1930, over 50 million had been sold.



IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE BENTWOOD CHAIR – HOW A MATERIAL AND IDEA SHAPED A COMPANY

Our history begins with the work of master joiner Michael Thonet. Since founding his first workshop in Boppard on the River Rhine in 1819, the name Thonet has been synonymous with quality, innovation and clear aesthetics. A look at our company's development impressively shows how a single idea can endure through the centuries and continue to live as a source of inspiration in future-oriented, trend-setting ideas.

In the 1830s, Michael Thonet experimented with strips of veneer boiled in glue until he succeeded in inventing the "furniture made of bent wood" after several years. When Prince Metternich heard of the outstanding talent of the joiner from the Rhineland, he brought him to Vienna in 1842. Together with his sons, Thonet first did parquet and furniture work at Palais Liechtenstein and Palais Schwarzenberg before crossing the threshold to the coffee house with his chair no.4 for Café Daum located at Vienna's Kohlmarkt. The innovative piece of furniture soon made this type of chair part and parcel of the Vienna coffee house culture and laid the cornerstone for what we call "project business" today: the production of furniture for public spaces.



Armchair for the Purkersdorf
Sanatorium
1902



Cabaret Fledermaus Chair
1905-06



Chair No. 14
1859



Eames chair
1956



THE THONET PRINCIPLE

1 IDEA
6 PARTS
2 SCREWNUTS
10 SCREWS

AN INGENUOUS DISTRIBUTION IDEA

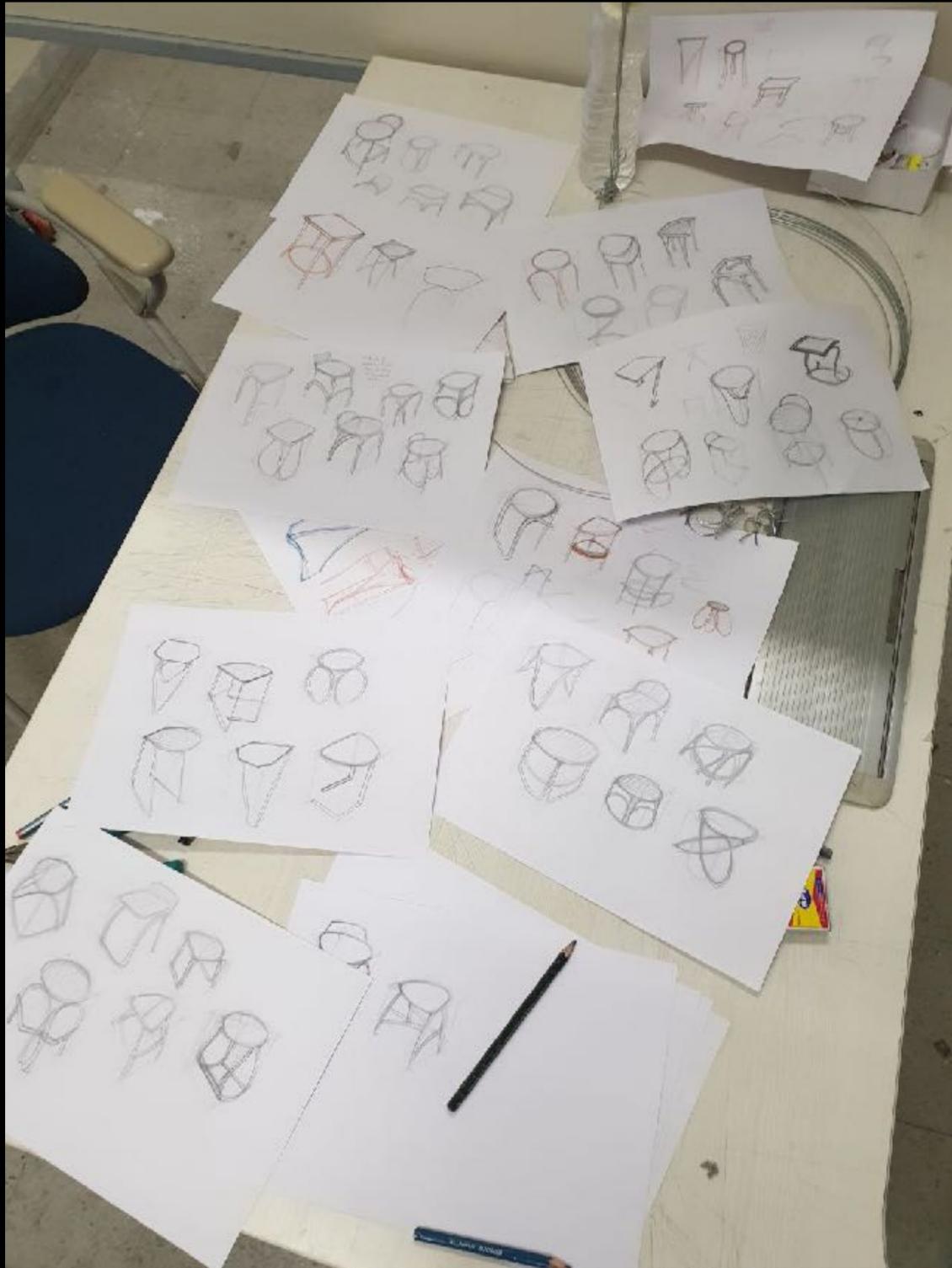
36 disassembled chairs including the screws were packed in a transport box with a volume of one cubic meter and shipped throughout the world. They were assembled on site – in Europe, North and South America, Asia and Africa.

Therefore, Thonet is considered a pioneer of industrial design, and the chair no. 14 – today 214 – is considered the most successful industrial product in the world: it established the starting point for the history of modern furniture.



BRIEF

To build a stool using techniques invented and perfected by Thonet - mainly bentwood techniques - keeping the essence of the design language of Thonet's classics



Exploration was to find the essence of Thonet's classics and slowly proceed into a modern stool keeping the technique and style similar



Workspace



Lasercut form of the finally selected stool design



The original Thonet No.14 - Full size drawing



Exploring an in-house method to understand steam bending and its possibilities - The final product was only partly successful - further explorations weren't possible due to time constraints.



A first render of the stool
after a few explorations

The Thonet Stool

