



Schiavello
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*liberty*TM

Changing the way
people sit.



the Liberty chair
designed by Niels Diffrient

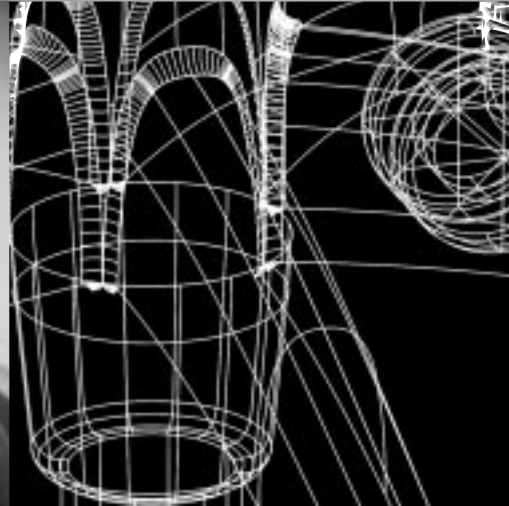
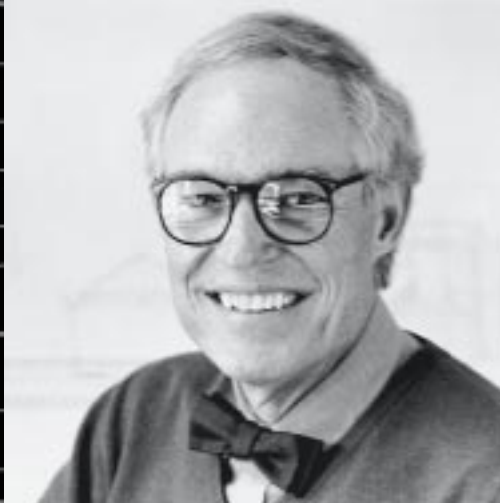
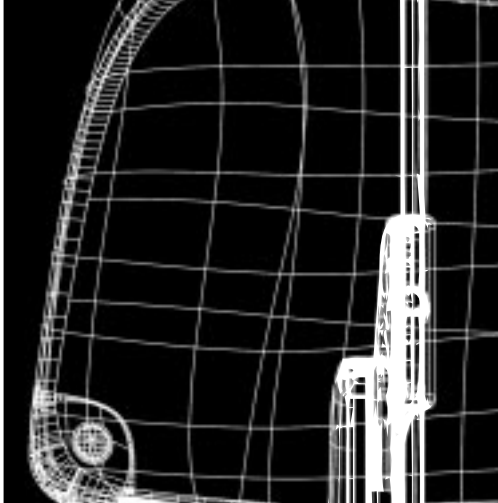
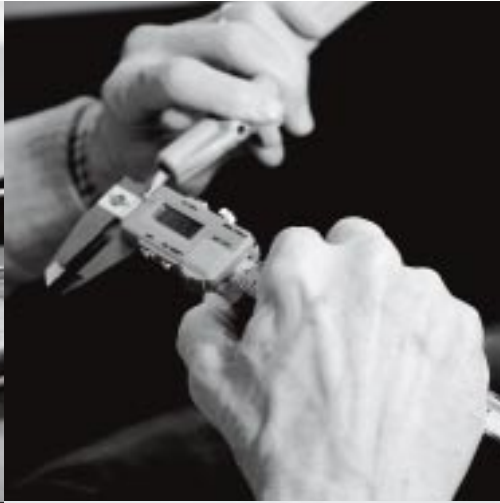


The Liberty chair is based on one idea — that sitting comfortably should be the easiest part of your day.

Goodbye manual adjustments

The Liberty chair is designed to give the maximum ergonomic benefit to the sitter with a minimum number of manually-adjusted controls. Once the chair is fitted, no further adjustment is required.

The idea is that movement, which is essential for a healthy body, shouldn't be constricted by locking mechanisms and manual controls. In other words, sitting comfortably isn't something you should have to think about.



Liberty's Designer

One of the century's preeminent designers, Niels Diffrient has endeavoured throughout his career to emphasise the "human factors" of industrial design, using ingenuity and intuition to bring consumers products that meet their needs.

From his 25 years at the office of Henry Dreyfuss, where his signature output covered everything from thermostats to high voltage towers, to one of his most recent projects, an office system for KI - awarded Best of Competition at NeoCon 1998 - Diffrient has operated under the assumption that designers should work from "the inside out," with the design process proceeding hand in hand with the engineering process, and not as a subsequent frill to adorn an otherwise anodyne product. His emphasis on meeting human needs was codified in the three-volume Humanscale, an influential sourcebook for designers that examined the movements and dimensions of the human body.

From his early work with Eero Saarinen and Marco Zanuzo to the present, Diffrient's integrity and vision have been recognised in dozens of awards and honorary citations, and he has served as designer or consultant to the Fortune 500's leading companies. His quest to create workplace environments fitted to the needs of their users continues unabated with "Liberty," a task chair that conforms to its user's shape without an array of knobs and levers.

– DaimlerChrysler Design Awards, a retrospective of winners, 1999

the designer

"When design springs from an understanding of the people who are going to use a product, you begin to see forms that you would never have imagined."

Niels Diffrient

Hello Liberty.

The Liberty chair was designed specifically to encourage frequent, spontaneous changes of position. There are no locks and no tension springs to negotiate. Instead, there are elegant mechanisms that automatically support your body in every position you'll assume throughout the day.

Liberty's advanced technology has made sitting simple. Now you can think about your work, rather than worry about your chair.

Body fit

The seat, back and headrest may be independently positioned to fit your exact body size.

Responsive backrest

Liberty's unique Dual Pivot backrest automatically adapts to the changing needs of your spine during recline.

Intelligent mechanism

Liberty's revolutionary counterbalance mechanism automatically provides the right amount of recline tension for your body size and weight.

Automatic headrest

The dynamic, position-sensitive headrest cradles your head and neck as you recline, and moves out of the way when you sit upright—automatically.

Synchronous armrests

Liberty's body-friendly, gel armrests move up and down together, so you are always in balance.

Contoured cushions

The thin, sculpted cushions are specifically designed for long-term sitting comfort. Our optional gel seat cushion maximises weight distribution and minimises pressure points.

Recline action

As you recline, you'll maintain a near constant eye level, while the angle between your torso and legs opens up for better body function.



Movement is essential for a healthy back

People are spending more time sitting than ever before. Not surprisingly, this increase in sitting has been accompanied by a proportional increase in back problems. Our bodies were designed to move. In fact, movement, more than anything else, provides nourishment for the spine, keeps the joints lubricated and flexible, improves circulation and therefore keeps us comfortable.

Conversely, when we don't move, the elasticity of our spine and joints is reduced and our muscles become fatigued. The key to healthy and comfortable sitting is being able to move without restrictions.

Any fixed posture, no matter how closely it approaches the optimal, will generate muscle fatigue. Therefore, it is important to build in flexibility to allow operators to shift positions easily.

It's not about how you sit,

it's about how you move.



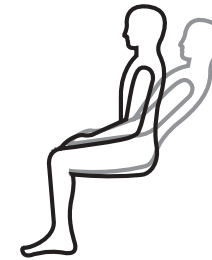
Freedom to recline.

The more you recline, the more the weight of your body is proportionately distributed and the more comfortable you get. Ergo, the best chair is a bed.
Niels Diffrient



Relax. It's good for you

An upright sitting posture transfers the weight of your entire upper body through your spine directly to the sitting bones, increasing pressure and discomfort. Reclining, on the other hand, transfers some of the body's weight to the backrest, reducing the load on your sitting bones. The more you recline, the more the weight of your body is proportionately distributed. Also, the angle between your torso and thighs opens up, allowing better breathing and easing internal pressure. This is why you can stay fully recumbent for hours without discomfort.



Liberty's recline is supported by lifting body weight.

Perfectly adjusted recline

Liberty's revolutionary exoskeletal design works like a human-sized weighing scale. The chair's virtual pivot point is at the body's natural pivot point – the hip – so the geometry of the chair parallels that of the body. As you recline, your weight automatically balances the force required to recline the chair, effortlessly keeping Liberty in perfect balance with you. That's why you're fully supported at all times without the need for locks.



Optional Infinite Tilt for forward tilt and additional recline of the entire chair.

Infinite Tilt

The optional Infinite Tilt mechanism allows you to tilt the entire chair 6° forward or 5° further to the rear. Forward tilt of the entire seat pan rotates the pelvis and puts the lumbar area of the spine into a healthy lordotic curve preferred for desktop work. In forward tilt, the backrest follows the tilt of the seat to provide constant back support. The additional tilt toward the rear gives the whole chair an exceptional 27° of recline – far more than the other leading office chairs.

Headrest revolution.

Why traditional headrests don't work

Headrests are added to chairs because your head needs support when you recline — which is why people without headrests put their hands behind their heads when they lean back. However, a fixed headrest is usually in the wrong position. And a manually adjustable headrest requires constant adjustment every time you change position, and who can be bothered with that?

Liberty's advanced headrest technology

Liberty's headrest mechanism is as smart as the rest of the chair. It is ingeniously connected to the chair's reclining mechanism, so that when you lean back, the headrest moves forward to a supporting position (keeping your head upright). Not insignificantly, the headrest movement parallels the natural arc of the head and neck, so that it provides optimal support through their full range of motion. To fit all users, it can be adjusted vertically within a 127mm/5" range.

In an upright position, the headrest stays out of the way.

As you recline, the headrest moves forward to support your head.

In full recline, the headrest moves to an optimum working position, cradling your head and neck in perfect comfort.



Synchronous armrests!



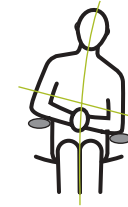
Armrests matter

Armrests are critical to long-term comfort and health. Without them, the neck and shoulders have to carry the weight of the arms (11% of body weight), putting strain on the upper back and pressure on the spine.

But incorrectly adjusted armrests cause similar problems. Different tasks require different armrest heights: low for desk work and keyboarding/mousing, mid-range for conversational posture, high for reading/reclining. If armrests are not adjusted as tasks change, then the user isn't getting their full benefit.

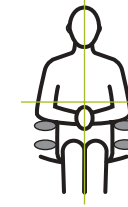
Synchronous is easy

The revolutionary armrests on Liberty, with a vertical range of 178mm/7", can be adjusted synchronously without release buttons. In fact they're so easy to use that people will actually adjust them throughout the day to correctly support their many different tasks.



Today's armrests

The individually adjusted armrests on traditional chairs are difficult to get even, and, in fact, unknowing users often set them at different levels on purpose. This virtually ensures that they sit (sometimes for years) with a crooked spine – a high-risk posture for back injury.



Synchronous is better

Liberty's synchronous armrests ensure you'll always work in balance, with your spine straight and your weight evenly distributed on your sitting bones. And that's critical for long-term safety and comfort.



Stress-free recline

The armrests on most traditional chairs attach to the seat, which means that they stay forward as you recline. This action causes your arms to extend, which puts stress on your neck and shoulders. Liberty's armrests attach to the backrest, keeping your elbows in line with your shoulders (the neutral arm posture) and minimising the added stress of arm extension during recline.



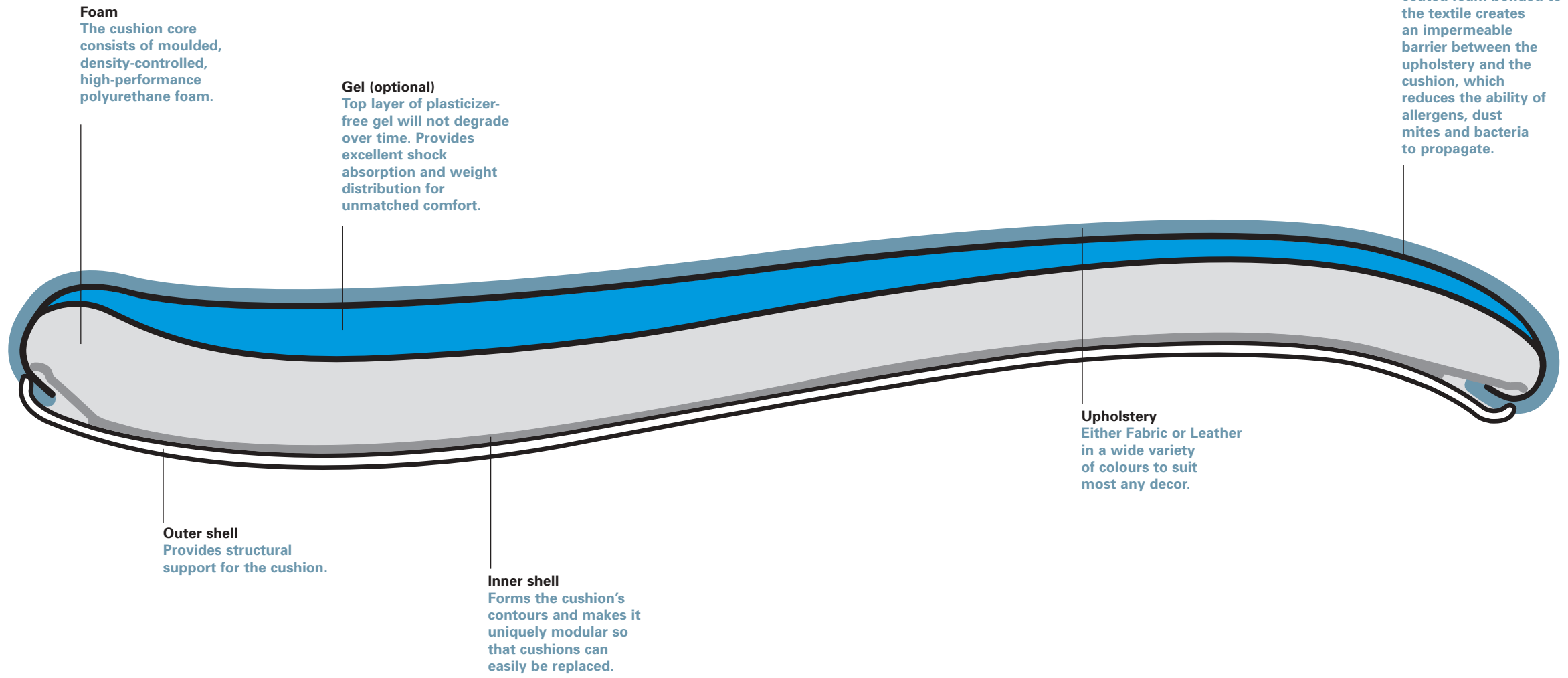
Optional swivel

Liberty's optional Advanced Armrests pivot at the elbow and can be locked to support the forearm in any position within a 35° arc of motion. Likewise, they can be left unlocked to swing freely – a nice feature when moving frequently between keyboard and mouse.

Defying gravity.

The benefits of a thin cushion
The old, thick cushions found on traditional chairs look comfortable, and feel comfortable when you first sit down, but if you've spent any time in one of these chairs, you'll know that the comfort level turns to discomfort over time.

That's because thick, foam cushions compress under your body weight and form a cavity that effectively keeps you from shifting positions. Liberty's new, thinner cushions are designed to maximise comfort over several hours, not several minutes!



Foam
The cushion core consists of moulded, density-controlled, high-performance polyurethane foam.

Gel (optional)
Top layer of plasticizer-free gel will not degrade over time. Provides excellent shock absorption and weight distribution for unmatched comfort.

Foam layer
Layer of urethane-coated foam bonded to the textile creates an impermeable barrier between the upholstery and the cushion, which reduces the ability of allergens, dust mites and bacteria to propagate.

Upholstery
Either Fabric or Leather in a wide variety of colours to suit most any decor.

Outer shell
Provides structural support for the cushion.

Inner shell
Forms the cushion's contours and makes it uniquely modular so that cushions can easily be replaced.

Cross-section of the Liberty cushion

Gel comfort.

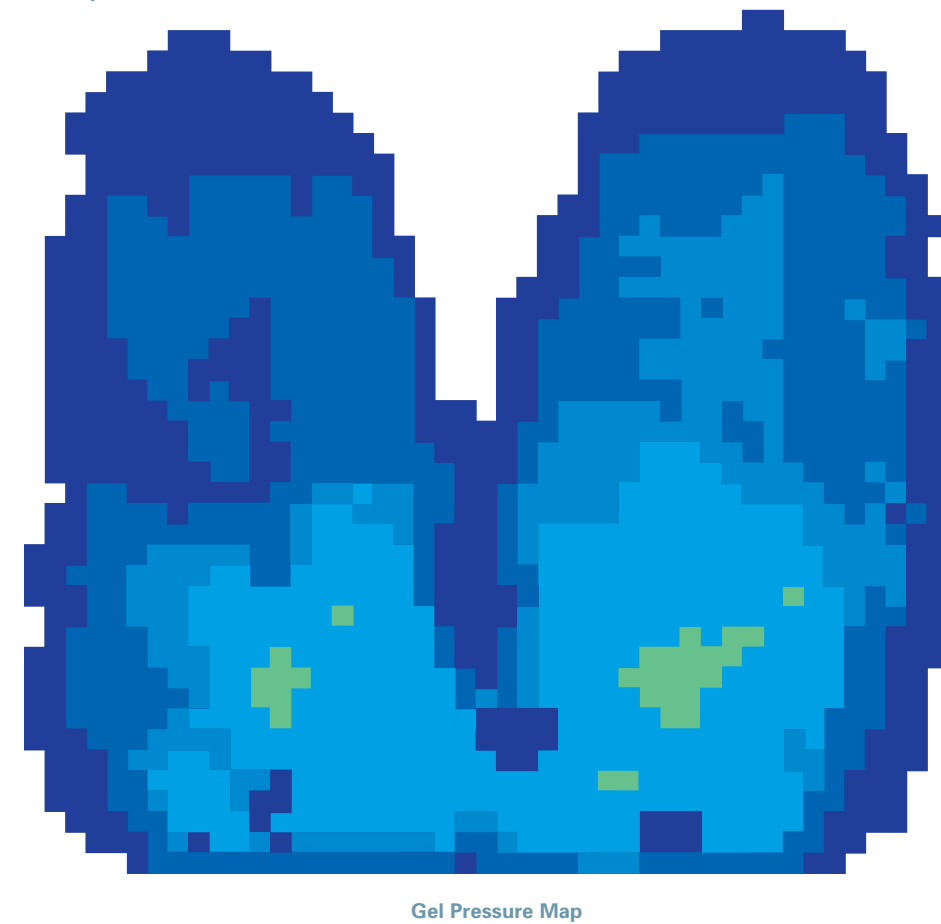
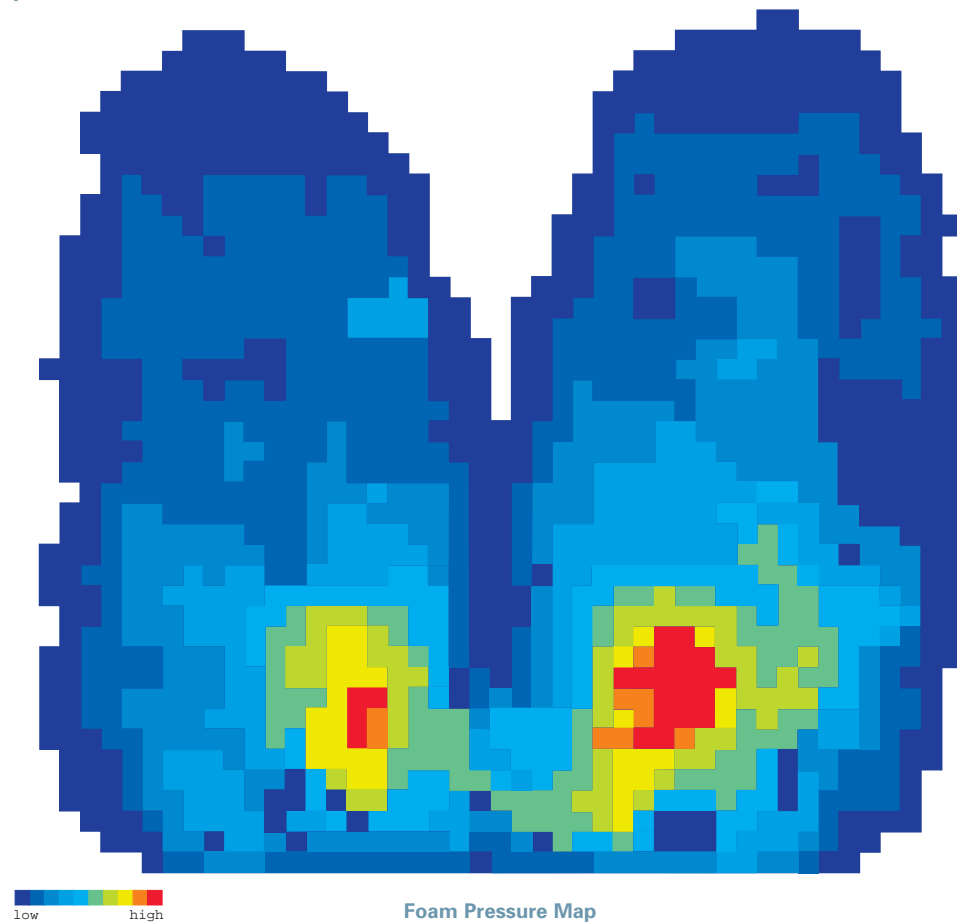
After 90 minutes of sitting, the max pressure on a gel cushion is 60% less than the max pressure on a foam cushion. When it comes to long-term comfort, gel cushions have no equal.

Get behind comfort
When it comes to materials that ease pressure points, gel tops the list. That's why gel has been the standard for the highest quality wheelchair cushions and bicycle seats.

Unlike foam, which compresses under body weight, gel, with its liquid-like properties, disperses. Which means that it moves away from high-pressure areas and fills in gaps in low-pressure areas, thereby distributing body weight and easing pressure under the sitting bones.

The red areas below show how foam seats create pressure points that can make it hard to sit over a long period of time.

Liberty's gel seat cushion, shown at right, disperses the load so that the pull of gravity doesn't put all the pressure in one place.



One size fits all.

Backrest height
458mm/18"
to 534mm/21"



Armrest height
115mm/4.5"
to 293mm/11.5"

Seat height
407mm/16"
to 518mm/21.3"

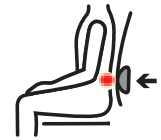
Seat depth
420mm/16.5"
to 509mm/20"

Right-size your organisation

In any organisation, the average chair will be used by 10 or more people during its lifetime. Therefore, it is essential that the chair be adjustable to fit users of all sizes. Liberty fits a wider range of people (95%) than any other major chair on

Our back matches your back

To support the lumbar, many chairs include a moveable "bump" which often has the undesirable effect of concentrating pressure on the lower back. With Liberty, the entire seat back is carefully contoured to fit the lumbar curve. Since it is the position more than the shape of the lumbar curve that varies from person to person, the whole backrest can be moved to match your back perfectly.



Traditional



Liberty



One day, all
office chairs
will be like this.



The Liberty stool,
a perfect
companion to the office
chairs, doubles as a
guest seat for in-office
meetings and an
ottoman for when
you're ready to kick
back and relax.

Our Commitment

With our acknowledged commitment to quality office seating, Schiavello has found a natural partner in the US based ergonomics company Humanscale.

The Liberty chair, designed by Niels Diffrient for Humanscale, is a revolutionary advancement in office seating. Its many innovations will be duplicated in future chairs, setting as they do, new standards in office seating.

The good news from Schiavello is that you don't have to wait.

The Liberty chair can be yours...now!

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