

SOCIAL DESIGN

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Integration through design – this is the subject that has been in the centre of attention of the Austrian furniture and product design studio EOOS after the migration wave engulfed the European countries. The question they pose is: Is it possible for design to contribute to the efficient utilization of the potential of refugees, to foster their integration in the society? This was how the social furniture series SF was designed – it aims to improve the conditions in refugee camps and provide better coordination between the different functions of occupation – “life”, “work” and “cooking”. It consists of 18 furniture components with simplified design. An important aspect of this concept is the idea that people who inhabit refugee camps should participate in assembling and positioning the furniture they will later use. This work process keeps them busy and what’s more adds emotional attachment to the surrounding environment which means that they will preserve the furniture while using it. The collection is an example of social furniture designed to care about the problems in the society and could be implemented at a different scale and meet various needs depending on context. This collection was presented at the architectural biennial in Venice 2016 and in MAK museum as part of the Vienna Design Week.







EOOS studio – Gernot Bohman, Harald Grundl, Martin Bergman