

RESEARCH



BIRMINGHAM CITY
University

Revolutionising furniture design

Our researchers have produced innovative chair designs to benefit schools, orchestras and care homes across the world. Extensive research into the postural needs of specific communities have led to multiple innovations and a registered design.



Find out more >>

Background

The project began with a study of the seating needs of the members of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, leading to the development of complex curved laminated wood components for the seat and back. The research then broadened into the seating needs of primary and secondary school pupils and the elderly and their carers.



Method

The design of the chair always had sustainability and the quality of life of the end user in mind, as well as British and European standards for postural requirements.

“I am firmly of the opinion that Opus chairs are the market leader for orchestral musicians”

- Director of Orchestral Management, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra

The separate back, seat and base allows for different material options within one chair, and a series of options have been developed as a result of this in-built flexibility.

Impact

The musician’s chairs are used by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, the National Theatre and major concert halls across the world. The school chair is being specified by architects and designers working on new build projects throughout the UK looking for a visually refreshing chair which addresses current postural issues.

To find out more visit **bcu.ac.uk/research/stories**