

■ "As suppliers of moulded-wood components, we are partners of both designers and manufacturers, and so we see ourselves as a connecting link between them" – such is the way Dr. Ralf Becker explained his venture's commitment to the Design Forum. The underlying idea called for getting together all of those who partake of producing a piece of furniture, so as to initiate a sort of know-how transfer among moulded-wood specialists. It was against this not quite unselfish but certainly legitimate background that an international competition of ideas was tendered. 121 designers from at home and abroad – Germany, Italy, Austria, France, Denmark, Great Britain, Slovakia and even the U.S. – followed the invitation to file their drafts in conjunc-



tion with the use of moulded wood. Material combinations were permitted, provided they'd be industrially produceable. Prizes in the form of money weren't offered, but that didn't worry participants seeing that what was really offered was quite attractive in a different way, because what was offered in return was a personal presence of the Interzum which held out the possibility to establish contacts with manufacturers from the furniture industry. Before the fair commenced, all drafts filed were checked for their ability to be materialised, and five months were left for the 28 1:1 prototypes – a first opportunity for many designers of working together with the Brakel design professionals. Given the great

number of entries, a selection did of course have to be made. As the venture emphasises, this was certainly not a real evaluation. The firm saw itself as just a broker pure and simple, but it certainly offered its experiences for prototype construction and industrial serialisation. A documentation now gives a systematic overview of all models, plans and designers complete with addresses for contacts. Unfortunately, "all rights reserved" is not a matter of course in the case of competitions initiated by firms staging them, but in the case of the Becker Design Forum it was fortunately practised to the advantage of the designers involved.



Des. Charles Polin

Floro.
Doppelsinnig gekrümmt:
der Formholzsitz, Mittelpunkt des Entwurfs.

*Floro. Doubly curved:
the moulded-wood seat as
the focus of the design.*

Des. Charles Job

Extreme Radien: Allein sechs Richtungswechsel stecken im Armlehn/Vorderbeinprofil.

Extreme radii: not less than six changes of direction are hidden away in the armrest/front leg profile.



Des. Sørig Thomsen Design

Einschale auf Einrohr:
"Ich bin glücklich, wenn ein Design zeigt, was das Produkt kann."

Single-shell on one single tube: "I am happy when the design shows what the product can do."