

Czech anti-decubitus seat from 3D printer has received the design Oscar - Red Dot Award

Prague, April 5, 2022

Better quality of life for wheelchair users, protection of their health and unique technologies. The main features for which anti-decubitus Libella Seat Varia received the prestigious Red Dot Award: Product Design 2022. It's creator Věra Kunhartová ranked among Czech holders of this award, such as intimacy aids designer Anna Marešová, medical technology designer Ivan Dlabač or industrial designer Petr Novague.

Designer Věra Kunhartová has over a long period focused on the development of health technology and compensatory aids. For Libella Seat Varia she has opted for an innovative application of FDM 3D print technology, thus changing the routine way of producing compensatory aids for wheelchair users, enabling financially as well as ecologically user-friendly production and making individual aids more accessible to a larger number of users.

The first fully adjustable anti-decubitus seat on market functions as a set of construction blocks. Upon specialized medical examination each user obtains individual setting in accordance with his personal anatomy, along with the possibility of re-adjustment complying with his current state of health. It is possible to replace just single parts, if necessary, and so extend the lifespan of the whole product. Combination of four layers of different materials, the selection and testing of which has been done with the utmost care, will provide anti-decubitus protection as well as solution of very complicated cases of postural deformities. Modern technologies, the latest materials and individual approach have in this manner combined into a light, breathable and easily maintainable seat which not only looks well but first and foremost helps its users and makes their life easier.

Libella Seat Varia was introduced on the market in 2021 and by now almost 100 clients are enjoying its benefits. With some of these clients, after only several months of usage, it was possible to eliminate their taking of pain-killers, to extend daily sitting time to some hours, to reduce medical problems or to heal incipient decubitus. The seat contributes to an easier life of its users as well as to their better employment possibilities, so helping to reduce costs for the social system.

Věra Kunhartová, creator of the design, says:

„The reason I chose this specialization in compensatory aids design was in the first place an effort to raise the level of this domain. This has been stagnating over a long period because a limited market does not compel large producers to work on regular innovations, whereas small producers often cannot afford them. The work of producers and medical specialists is not always interconnected and therefore it is not a rule for knowledge and experience from practice to be correctly assessed and applied to development of new products. The student grant that FUD UJEP provided me during my postgraduate studies enabled me to concentrate for over two years on development and selection of suitable production technologies and materials. Cooperation with Zdeňka Faltýnková, significant Czech specialist in healthy wheelchair seating, with expert community as well as with users has given way to the birth of a product that brings fresh wind to the market and enables wheelchair users to find balance in their life. I am happy that Red Dot Award confirms we are heading the right way, feeling at the same time very responsible for maintaining the quality of Libella brand products.“

This year there were products from almost 60 countries registered for Red Dot Award: Product Design 2022. Their quality was assessed by independent international jury of 48 experts from 23



countries, all of whom have a professional experience of many years in the field of design, as designers, journalists, university professors and consultants.

Red Dot Award, highly respected by expert community, is one of the most important design competitions in the world, granted since the fifties of the last century. The award is bestowed in three basic categories, these being design concept, communication and product design. "Red Dot" award is an internationally recognized seal of an outstanding design.

About us:

We are Libella, new Czech brand of compensatory aids worked out with the highest precision. We systematically pursue individualization of products for wheelchair users, simultaneously emphasizing quality and design.

MgA. Věra Kunhartová

Product designer specializing in health and compensatory aids to satisfy individual needs of users. Graduate of FUD Jana Evangelisty Purkyně in Ústí nad Labem, where she is now finishing her postgraduate studies. Holder of National Prize for Student Design 2013 - Excellent design and award of South Estonia Product of the year 2020. In 2015 she established her own studio Zdravý Design / Healthy Design where she with the support of her team designs products for Czech and foreign producers of health technology and develops aids not only for wheelchair users. In 2020 she together with her investor Čestmír Vančura founded Libella Design s.r.o. company for the production and sale of Libella brand products.

Zdeňka Faltýnková

Physiotherapist, ergotherapist and expert on spinal problems with 40 years of practice. Founding member of Paraplegic Association (now CZEPA), board member of Physiotherapist Union of Czech Republic and Czech Society for Spinal Lesion. Founder of rehabilitation programme in Centrum Paraple, expert on healthy sitting in a wheelchair. For lifelong activity in benefit of people in wheelchairs and expert work in the sphere of physiotherapy and ergotherapy, she is a bearer of Minister of Health Annual Award, "Crystal Stone" Price and Award for outstanding contribution in the field of ergotherapy within European region.

Ing. Čestmír Vančura

Businessman, co-founder and co-owner of companies Libella design s.r.o. and Kovárna VIVA a.s., VIVA CV, president International Festival of Films for Children and Youth, holder of title EY Businessman 2018 of Zlín region, lover of art, good design and architecture.

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