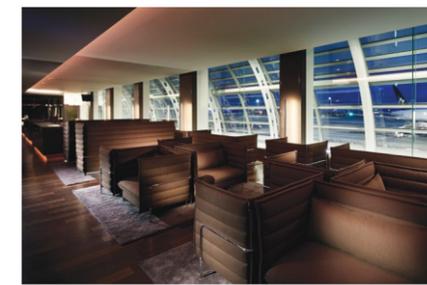




SBB in Switzerland has equipped its stations with Vitra seats



ABOVE
Passengers require comfortable, relaxing seating areas while they wait at Tokyo Haneda Airport



RIGHT
Vitra's Meda Gate has been installed at Horrem railway station in Germany

Commuter comfort

Providing comfortable, durable seating in railway station waiting areas is key to creating a positive passenger experience

For decades, Vitra has dedicated itself to the topic of sitting. This naturally includes time spent in public spaces – illustrated by the fact that Vitra has had the waiting area seating system Eames Tandem Seating as a part of its product portfolio since 1962. This was only the start – Vitra has now installed public seating in over 100 airports, railway stations and other public environments.

The public seating product portfolio began to grow as clients' requirements and passengers' attitude toward traveling changed. Nowadays a big airport hub has to guarantee enough seating capacity for thousands of passengers and provide several possibilities for meeting and retreating so that

passengers can sleep and relax close to the departure gates.

Railway stations have grown and celebrated a comeback in the past few years. International mid-range distances, especially on high-speed trains and center-to-center connections within bigger cities, have grown in popularity. For example in Europe, the Eurostar train from Paris to London and the TGV from Zürich/Basel to Paris are key routes. These railway connections compete against the airline industry with high performance and fast connections.

Railway passenger numbers have grown as well over the past few years and experts expect numbers to increase and explode in



ABOVE
Passengers at El Dorado International Airport can relax on seats designed by Norman Foster

the next 10 years, as cars will no longer be viable alternatives to trains for several reasons. This means that traveling by train will be more common in the future.

Nevertheless, railway and airline clients remain the same and expect a certain service before, during and after a trip. They require online booking tools, special rates, good service, on-site lounges, internet access and VIP zones – or at the very least, comfortable and clean waiting areas.

Design development

Vitra started to dedicate itself to public space seating with the first modular and restrained design from Norman Foster Airline Seating in 1998, the first aluminum structure in its seating range available in several finishes.

Only two years later, the .04 on stretcher was on the market, using innovative polyurethane foam that removed the need for a cushion and was a highly durable solution for the global market. Its durability and size made it a chair for almost every environment.

In 2011, Vitra launched Meda Gate, the first cantilever seat for the public market featuring technical sophistication and restrained design.

Vitra has a public spaces division called Airports & Transportation that is dedicated to projects in this field. The company brings over 20 years of know-how and a team of specialists to any place in the world to support its clients.

A railway station has most of the same requirements for public seating as airports

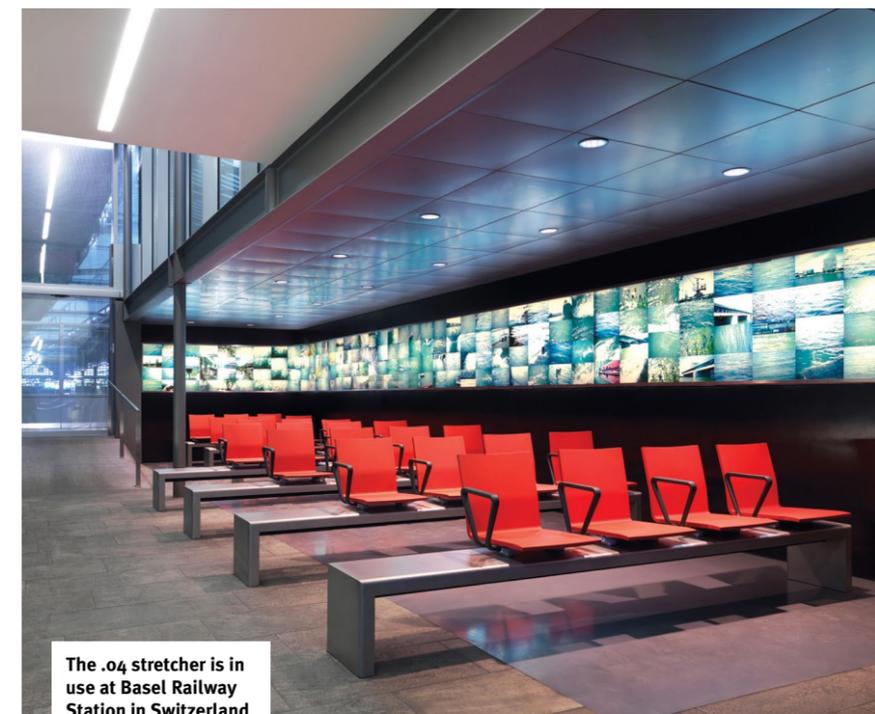
– durability, maintenance, fixation and safety. Vitra's seats are conceptual, strong designs for long-term use. Swiss Railways (SBB), Eurostar and German Railways (DB) have all equipped some of their railway stations with Vitra seats.

The modern airport meets a variety of needs and gives cause for just as many expectations. Vitra's research on new approaches and solutions is reflected in a range of products that can be used in virtually every operational area of an airport terminal, including lounges and VIP zones. The company also provides seating for other public spaces, including restaurants and offices, and it provides a product range for home seating as well.

Not only the operators of public institutions, but also individual employees, visitors and passengers benefit from the experience Vitra has gained from its global installed base and its continuous exploration of new developments.

Airports, train stations and other public spaces are often filled with people around the clock. Their design and furnishings contribute both to their success in operations and to the well-being of the people who use them. The products used must therefore meet the highest demands in terms of quality, design and serviceability.

Thanks to the broad spectrum of Vitra's products, visitors in waiting zones as well as users of other public areas can benefit from the ergonomic and design quality of the company's products – from the airport gate to customs, security clearance and luggage check-in, and from restaurants, lounges and shopping areas to railway terminal waiting areas, back offices and control centers. <<



The .04 stretcher is in use at Basel Railway Station in Switzerland

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