JUNE 2010

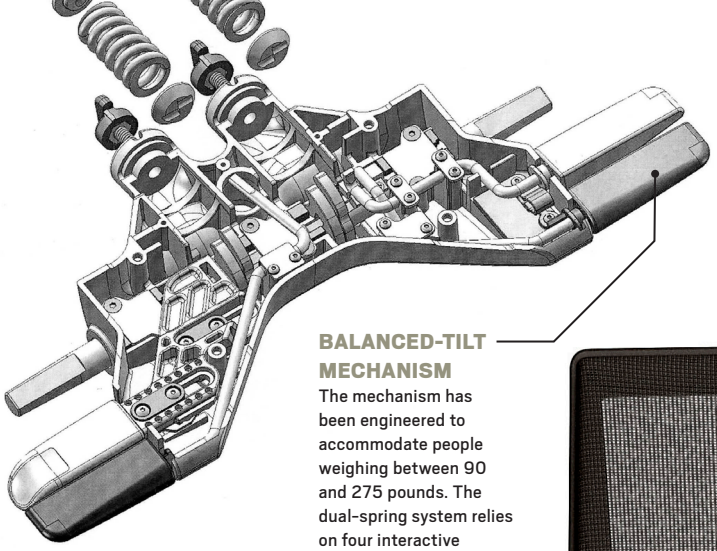
METROPOLIS

SIMPLE SETTINGS

by **Paul Makovsky**

The architect Sava Cvek removes some of the bells and whistles of the task chair.

With office workers spending so much time at their desks, it's no wonder that industrial designers are always searching for the perfect chair. Stylex's new multipurpose seat, the Sava, hopes to be just that. Named for the designer of the chair, the architect Sava Cvek, it was created for people who spend long hours performing a variety of tasks. Gone are the 50-turn knob settings, which are commonly found on task chairs (and which people rarely use). They're replaced with four simple settings. "Sava avoids the pitfalls of both plug-and-play seating and awkward and complicated hyperadjustable seating," says John Golden, president of Stylex. "Sava offers the precise level of control to support today's collaborative and adaptive environments." And Sava, which is available as either a task or conference chair, is priced to address tight budgets. Here Cvek takes us through some of the finer points of the chair, which debuts this month at NeoCon. ◘

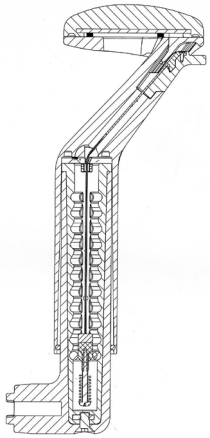


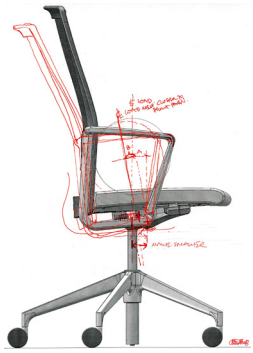
BALANCED-TILT MECHANISM

The mechanism has been engineered to accommodate people weighing between 90 and 275 pounds. The dual-spring system relies on four interactive mechanical cams, which adjust tension through a full range of motion. In the reclined position, the springs retain their stored energy and assist the sitter's return to a fully upright posture.

MESH AND UPHOLSTERY

The chair comes in mesh, upholstery, or a combination of the two. The high-performance mesh has various tensions to provide more support to certain parts of the seat and back. Other areas are less firm to promote movement and comfort. "This stretchy mesh is not that much different than a spring," Cvek says.





ILLUMINATION

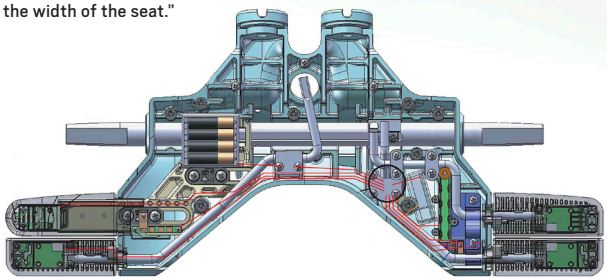
The chair has a unique option: illuminated control panels—for height adjustment, tilt tension, seat depth, and tilt lock—are located on the sides of the seat. "People generally read the ergonomic controls in poorly lit environments, so we put illuminated controls that are visible and easy to touch," Cvek says. "They stick out about an inch and a half from the width of the seat."

MOTION

The balanced-tilt mechanism allows users' feet to remain flat on the floor while they recline. Combined with a flexible seat pan, it even permits shorter people to maintain a comfortable position. "We're producing a very similar effect with the seat and tilt mechanism as your upper body does with the back and lumbar," Cvek says.

MATERIALS

The chair is designed to meet MBDC's Cradle to Cradle certification and BIFMA's new Level standard. Made of cast aluminum, steel, and plastic, it's up to 98 percent recyclable. The seat and back are easily replaceable, and the entire chair can be disassembled in minutes. "We tried to minimize the cost of every component," Cvek says.



Courtesy SCA Development