

EMBARGOED UNTIL 9AM BST 25 AUGUST 2020

Joint effort

TAKT launches Plint – the crafted coffee table
by Cecilie Manz



The new Plint coffee table by Cecilie Manz for TAKT in Oregon Pine finish.
Photograph by Mikkel Mortensen.

Hot on the heels of its first anniversary, TAKT – the Danish furniture brand known for its timeless Scandinavian aesthetic and accessible, sustainable business model – has collaborated with one of the country's leading designers, Cecilie Manz, to release Plint. This beautifully crafted wooden coffee table, with vegetable-tanned leather hinges and a delightfully simple self-assembly mechanism, will be available to order at taktcph.com in October.

Manz's first design for TAKT, the Plint Coffee Table joins the brand's existing collection of flatpack chairs, tables, benches and stools. It introduces new functionality to the range, while embodying TAKT's characteristic material focus on

sustainable woods, timeless Scandinavian simplicity, easy assembly and attention to detail.

Plint also shares TAKT's emphasis on versatility. The rectangular table is the size and shape to feature in any room of the home: as a regular coffee table in front of the sofa; as a side table positioned against the wall or beneath a window; or as a platform to stack books and papers.



Plint by Cecilie Manz for TAKT demonstrates modern versatility and timeless Scandinavian simplicity. Photography by Mikkel Mortensen.

A perfect partnership

Plint is the result of a collaboration between one of Denmark's best-established design talents and its most exciting emerging start-up. A multiple award-winning industrial designer, Cecilie Manz has worked with some of the leading names in contemporary furniture and product design, including Fredericia Furniture, Duravit, Muuto and B&O. Now, she joins the likes of Pearson Lloyd, Rasmus Palmgren, Thomas Bentzen and Sam Hecht-and-Kim Colin in TAKT's hand-picked family of designers producing 'Danish design with a global outlook'.

"We subscribe to classic Danish design virtues: a focus on functionality, honest and natural materials, reduced ornamentation while still retaining personality. Cecilie Manz has this amazing touch to her designs – a pared-back aesthetic that doesn't shout but has this strong personality, presence and atmosphere."

– Henrik Taudorf Lorensen, Founder & CEO at TAKT

Manz's prototype was developed for Snedkernes Efterårsudstilling – the highly regarded Danish Cabinetmakers' Autumn Exhibition – in 2019. In the months since, the design has been through many further iterations to ensure it meets TAKT's eco-design and rigorous production standards. Now, Plint is ready to be introduced to homes around the world.

Crafted connection

TAKT's breakthrough proposition is high-quality Danish design made from sustainable materials and sold direct to customers at a fair and accessible price. Its flatpack distribution model reduces fuel consumption and carbon emissions during the production process, as well as creating opportunities for cost savings that can be passed on to the customer. The challenge for TAKT's designers is to develop intuitive self-assembly mechanisms that sidestep the frustrations many people encounter with flatpack.



Plint is designed to be shipped flatpack to reduce fuel consumption and carbon emissions, as well as creating cost savings for the customer. Photograph by Victor Neumann.

Cecilie Manz's ingenious solution reduces the table to just two components: tabletop and apron. The tabletop is attached to the legs with leather hinges. The apron is fitted with a leather loop that is fed through an aperture in the supports and fixed in place with an octagonal wedge. This allows the table to be cost-effectively shipped in a narrow, completely flat package, and to be quickly assembled with ease: no need for glue, bolts or screws.

"A small plinth is a type of furniture I often return to, as it's highly functional and self-explanatory to use. Leather as a hinging material is something I've been exploring a lot over the past 10 years – it's interesting to use an ordinary but genuine material such as full-grain leather where it makes functional sense to do so – as little as possible in the right place."

– Cecilie Manz, designer of Plint for TAKT

The tabletop and the side pieces are cut from a single piece of hand-selected timber, which gives a fluid pattern of grain, interrupted only by the leather hinge – this allows it to fold flat as a continuous plank of wood. The wedge connection – a mechanism reminiscent of the 'pegged stretcher' joinery method sometimes found in traditional dining tables – is finely crafted to ensure the connection is secure and the assembled structure is stable and robust.



Plint's charm is a combination of elegant design by Cecilie Manz and exquisite production by TAKT.
Photography by Victor Neumann

Honest materiality

Plint is crafted from two principal materials: wood and leather.

As with all TAKT products that feature leather, Plint is made using high-quality hides produced using a chrome-free tanning process. The leather is sourced from the

small Swedish tannery Tärnsjö Garveri, one of the few tanning houses which still practises environmentally conscious vegetable tanning (using bark extracts) as opposed to the time-efficient but more polluting chrome-based technique popular with many furniture manufacturers.



Left: Plint in the light and modern Kalmar Pine finish. Right: the deeper Oregon Pine wood. Photography by Mikkel Mortensen.

Three wood options are available: Oregon Pine, Kalmar Pine and Oak, each of which has a different aesthetic effect. Oregon Pine has a precise and regular grain structure and a warm golden glow. Slow-grown Kalmar Pine from Swedish forests has a soft, bright look and a beautiful grain pattern. The Oak version is darker, and more rustic in appearance.



Plint is available in three finishes, from left; Oak, Oregon Pine and Kalmar Pine. All TAKT wood is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council. Photography by Victor Neumann.

The tabletop and side pieces are from a single, flawless piece, which must be hand-selected and then cut precisely from logs to create the desired surface texture and

grain. The finished planks are then machined to ensure the highest possible degree of precision before the leather components are fixed into place.

Sustainable, repairable, responsible

As with all TAKT furniture, Plint has been awarded with the EU flower mark, the Ecolabel which acknowledges an end-to-end commitment to sustainability in material sourcing, production, transportation and recyclability.

As is the case with TAKT's other products, Plint's component parts are available to buy from TAKT as spares, maximising its lifespan by allowing the user to repair it – if necessary after years of use.

All wood used in production of Plint is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council, and treated only with natural oils. As well as ensuring the wood will develop a characterful patina over time, this allows the customer to engage with their furniture by easily removing blemishes or repair damage to the surface by applying sandpaper and a new oil treatment – again and again.

Plint is available to order from taktcph.com this October, for €649 in Kalmar Pine and Oak, and €799 in Oregon Pine.

Notes to editors

For more information about Plint, TAKT and its ground-breaking approach to furniture design, production and distribution, please contact takt@zetteler.co.uk.

Styled photography by Mikkel Mortensen. Cut-out photography by Victor Neumann.

Plint dimensions

H35cm x L120cm x W32cm

TAKT

TAKT is the furniture company rethinking the way to design, build and sell furniture for the mutual benefit of people and planet. Launched in Copenhagen in 2019, TAKT aims to reinvent the Scandinavian design tradition for the modern day. Sustainable materials and production methods are at the heart of its mission to provide high-quality design at accessible prices – without having a negative impact on the

planet. Danish in character, global in scope, TAKT has developed a digital value chain that enables it to sidestep the intermediary stages of conventional furniture brands, allowing it to maintain a uniquely appealing balance of cost, craft and carbon reduction.

taktcph.com
@taktcph

Cecilie Manz

Born in 1972, Cecilie Manz founded her studio in Copenhagen in 1998 and is now one of the leading Danish furniture designers of her generation, internationally known for her furniture, lighting and industrial design, as well as one-off sculptures and experiments. Her work has been exhibited worldwide, including at the Issey Miyake Design Studio Gallery in Tokyo, the Vitra Museum in Basel, and the Danish Museum of Art and Design, Copenhagen. She has been honoured with numerous awards over her decades in practice, most recently being named Designer of the Year 2018 by Maison&Objet, Paris and Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres in France in 2019

ceciliemanz.com
@ceciliemanz