

Catalogue I Maestri

Year of design 1960

## Year of production 2020

Designed by Ico Parisi in 1960 for Cassina, at that time "Figli di Amedeo Cassina", the 875 is a welcoming and elegant armchair. The author's typical experimentation has led to a project that is both classic and modern at the same time. Its proportions, with its large seat and comfortable armrests, outline its solemn profile, while the original arched steel supports in different finishes - to which its shell is bound - and the contrast of different ma-terials make it eclectic, innovative and functional in any room of the house. The structure of the armchair, initially padded with foam rubber cut into sharp edges, has now been re-issued with polyurethane foam padding to maintain its linear shape. Both the seat and backrest are upholstered in fabric from the Cassina collections, as are the removable cushions.

## Gallery



Designer



Ico Parisi

Domenico Parisi, nicknamed Ico, was born in Palermo on the 23rd of September 1916 to Sicilian parents who were living in the Piedmont region. In 1925 the Parisi family moved to Como where Ico earned his diploma as a building inspector in 1936 and completed an apprenticeship at Studio Terragni. The studio gave him the opportunity to get to know and interact with prominent figures of Como's architecture and art world such as Cattaneo, Lingeri, Radice, Rho, Persico and Sartoris. Passionate about cinema and photography, at Studio Terragni's request he photographed the Casa del Fascio. Discharged from the front in 1943, he returned to Como and resumed his design activity, mainly working on individual furnishings, exhibition stands and interior architecture. He collaborated with Luisa Aiani and soon married her in 1947. Together they opened the studio La Ruota, a place of design but also a place of art, exhibitions and culture. Parisi's work became more and more prolific from the 1950s, in both the architectural and design fields. He designed furniture, firstly unique pieces with craftsmen from Brianza and later for industrial production with

companies such as Cassina, as well as numerous decorative art objects using materials such as ceramics and glass.

The late 1960s marked a precise turning point in his design research. With *Contenitoriumani,* created in collaboration with the sculptor Francesco Somaini and presented for the first time at the *Milan Furniture Fair* in 1968, Parisi embarked on a new path of investigation aimed at defining a utopian-existential idea of living.

The culmination of his design and existential research came between 1974 and 1976 with "*Operazione Arcevia*", addressed in a collective and interdisciplinary manner and aimed at designing an entire community. The

work was presented at the 76<sup>th</sup> Biennale of Venice and subsequently exhibited at the National Gallery of Modern Art in Rome (1979). This strongly utopian socio-urban experience gave rise to his subsequent graphic research, which became the theme of innumerable collective and personal exhibitions. He died in Como on the 19<sup>th</sup> of December 1996.