



North American pioneer and internationally renowned designer combine talents in innovative new seating solution.

Groupe Lacasse collaborates with Paolo Favaretto to introduce SAGGIO™ to the North American market.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

St. Pie, Quebec, Canada (February 11, 2008) - Groupe Lacasse, a North American pioneer in the design, manufacture and service of a broad range of high-quality office furniture products, has collaborated with internationally famed Italian contemporary designer Paolo Favaretto to introduce Saggio™ seating created to meet the needs of the busy North American workplace.

“Groupe Lacasse was thrilled to have the opportunity to partner with Paolo Favaretto because of his design ingenuity,” says François Giroux, President of Groupe Lacasse. “Distinguished for his stylistic yet functional insights, he also incorporates painstaking precision and inventive use of materials into designs. He has achieved all of this and more in Saggio.”

With Saggio™, Favaretto’s challenge was to develop a chair that met the ergonomic demands of the modern office as well as combined a unique sense of aesthetics and value. “I started to think about how to make the chair seem simple, but make it comfortable with a strong and recognizable personality,” Favaretto explains. “My favorite aspect of the design has to be the clean lines and the ability for the chair to be completely individualized based on the needs of the user. But I think users will particularly enjoy Saggio’s overall simplicity – it’s highly intuitive.”

In keeping with Favaretto’s penchant for using innovative materials, Saggio™ features state-of-the-art mesh weave technology to give the chair a soft, yet modern look. Three mesh back styling options combined with the complete range of upholstery options from Groupe Lacasse’s United Chair® palette offers clients a broad range of styling options.

For Giroux, Favaretto’s design fills a gap in the market for aesthetically pleasing and highly comfortable management seating – at an economical price-point. “Saggio brings together the inspired and progressive value designs Groupe Lacasse is committed to in order to meet the needs of today’s high-growth and institutional markets.”

“We never stop looking for ways for our furniture to work more intelligently and efficiently, whether it’s by pursuing sustainable practices, through product development, or exploring fresh ideas from the next generation of design talent,” says Giroux. “It’s this dedication that has made Groupe Lacasse a design pioneer over the last 50 years, and will keep us successful over the next 50.”



Saggio™ Naming Story

Pronunciation: sa-'gee-o

Saggio means “wise” in Italian. Saggio™ represents good judgment and expertise based on the combination of knowledge, experience and intuitive understanding. It mirrors the benefits of these significant achievements in chair design for the workplace.

More on Paolo Favaretto

Favaretto’s designs all strive towards a goal that combines the useful with the beautiful. He earned international fame with his innovative designs and new office environments conceived for the Italian ministry in Voltaborozzo. His highly praised tactile museum for the sight impaired in Catania led to his founding of the European Institute for Design and Disability. His many prizes include the Roscoe Award, USA in 1988, the Compasso d’Oro in 1989 as well as the 1989 Good Design Award in Korea.

About Groupe Lacasse

Groupe Lacasse, based in St. Pie, Quebec, Canada, is a North American leader in the design, manufacture and service of a broad range of high-quality office furniture products under the Lacasse, United Chair and Nvision brands. Founded in 1956, Groupe Lacasse offers advanced design and value products in laminate office furniture, steel storage and filing, workplace systems and seating. The company has manufacturing facilities throughout North America. For more information, visit www.grounelacasse.com.

Groupe Lacasse is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Haworth Inc.



Design by Paolo Favaretto