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# This year, Kinnarps is celebrating 75 years of innovation

**Kinnarps was founded in 1942 in the small village of Kinnarp. It started with two employees – the founders Evy and Jarl Andersson. Today, 75 years later, Kinnarps is a large international interior design company represented in over 40 markets around the world.**

When the young couple Evy and Jarl Andersson bought a carpenter's shop in the small village of Kinnarp, they had the courage to put into practice ideas which were way ahead of their time. They were driven by the belief that anything, however good, can always be improved a little. This attitude is still deeply rooted in the company today. In 2017, Kinnarps is still 100% owned by the Jarlsson family and, despite its international scale, pervaded by the small family company's sound, down-to-earth fundamental values.

To celebrate the company's 75th anniversary this year, we have decided to have a special stand at the Stockholm Furniture & Light Fair entitled "75 years of Kinnarps Silhouettes". It represents a milestone at which we invite our visitors to experience and celebrate the company's 75-year history, its present and its future.



## **HERITAGE**

### HISTORY

Kinnarps is a long-standing family owned business, with a reputation for innovative workspace solutions. Finding solutions has always been one of our greatest strengths. When Kinnarps' founder Jarl met a client, he was sincerely interested in understanding their needs and confident the Kinnarps' expertise would help find a solution.

In 1943, Kinnarps started to deliver Tambour cabinets to the Swedish Government. Three years later a contract was signed. Since then Kinnarps has been a loyal supplier of workspace solutions for the public sector.

### TODAY

In Kinnarps' manufacturing and logistic system, the owners have continuously invest in the latest technology which allows the company to handle the variety from a single product order to a large complete interior solution with hundreds of work stations. By having capability and capacity to handle the complete process from interior design to hand over with own resources, Kinnarps lives up to the promises with quality in every step.

The founders of Kinnarps were entrepreneurs and their spirit still guides the employees today. 75 years on, the company has still a solutions based mindset. The spirit is to always look to solve customer needs and deliver individually customized solutions.



## **SUSTAINABILITY**

### HISTORY

Sustainability is one of Kinnarps core areas. From the very beginning, it were encouraged by conserving resources. In 1959, Kinnarps started to use blankets to wrap the products and avoid one-off packaging. Once the product were delivered the blankets are reused. This saves 6.5 tons of packaging materials every single day, to the benefit of the customers and the environment. It also makes it possible to load up to 50% more products compared to the normal standard in the industry when using the same container size.

### TODAY

Today 93% of the wood Kinnarps is using is FSC/PEFC certified. As well as choosing sustainable materials, the company work with Möbelfakta to ensure fair social conditions. Every product Kinnarps is producing is made according to sustainable principles.

Ethical audits and an internal whistle-blowing system, which allows employees to communicate concerns, ensure Kinnarps lives up to these principles. All suppliers should adhere to our Code of Conduct and suppliers are inspected to ensure materials and services live up to the expectations.

## **GLOBAL PLAYER**

### HISTORY

Kinnarps bought the first truck 1959. That's when Evy and Jarl decided to take control of delivering goods to avoid transportation damage and provide customers with a better service. Since then, logistics has become a critical part of the strategic solutions and global operations.



#### TODAY

Kinnarps take responsibility for the entire supply chain - from production to the time it arrives with the customer. For a single customer, Kinnarps can deliver and install over 100 workstations a day and up to 500 in a week, which our own delivery teams fit, and install, with minimal disruption. Orders within Europe are completed in 4-6 weeks and Kinnarps also delivers worldwide. Every day 24 fully loaded containers leave the factories to deliver workspace solutions designed for prosperity and wellbeing. All deliveries are optimized using an advanced route planning system, which is also linked to the production planning. Kinnarps has also invested in a modern fleet of eco-friendly vehicles to reduce the environmental impact further and since 2014 the company has reduced emissions by 7%.

### **ERGONOMICS**

#### HISTORY

Early on, Kinnarps realized that ergonomics play a major role in wellbeing, so the founders chose to focus on developing ergonomic solutions. In the early 1950's, Kinnarps started to cooperate with ergonomists in designing products that support the body. In 1991, Kinnarps developed and produced the first electrically adjustable table, which offered alternative positions for deskwork.

#### TODAY

Today, ergonomics is another of Kinnarps core areas. Wellbeing of employees is always in focus when new products and workspace solutions are developed. Ergonomics promotes a holistic approach. Physical, cognitive, social, organisational, environmental and other relevant factors are all taken into account when designing a product.



## **DESIGN**

### HISTORY

In the early 1950s, Jarl and Evy started to focus on product at scale. They developed a holistic approach to design and put a great amount of thought into making products that were beautiful to the eye and functional for the body.

### TODAY

Today, design is also a core area for Kinnarps. Design isn't only concerned with appearance - Kinnarps design philosophy places equal emphasis function, form and ergonomics. In this way the products create attractive workspaces, designed for the wellbeing of employees.

Kinnarps collaborates with many internationally renowned designers to ensure the company is constantly redefining the boundaries of form and function. Much of this work is based on research, customer insight and needs driven design. Several products has won design awards the last years, for instance iF Design Award and Red Dot Award, the world's most prestigious design awards.

## **INNOVATION**

### HISTORY

There are many examples of technological development and innovation throughout Kinnarps history. Kinnarps was one of the first manufacturers to develop sit/standing desks 1991 and Kinnarps were also invented the 'adjustment screw' (1970) that revolutionized office furniture, making it simple to adjust table height for different users.



Kinnarps has also developed pioneering sustainable production methods. In 1980 the company launched the solvent free UV lacquer to be able to offer hard, durable surfaces without damaging the environment. Since 1980, Kinnarps has decreased the emissions by 90% by placing eco innovation at the center of the business model.

#### TODAY

Today, we have a team that works exclusively with future based research and development. Their mission is to create the technology for the workspaces of the future. Capella (2016) is a great example of technology benefiting wellbeing. Capella has a totally new seat mechanism, called FreeMotion®. Balancing micro movements, it reduces strain by encouraging the body to move while seated. Capella has been designed with sustainability in mind and all the materials used can be efficiently recycled.

After 75 years in business, Kinnarps has learnt a lot about workspace solutions. However, Kinnarps is also humbled by the fact that there are so much more to learn and do!

#### **About Kinnarps**

KINNARPS IS A WORKSPACE SOLUTIONS COMPANY

Kinnarps was founded in 1942 by Jarl and Evy Andersson. To this day it is a 100% family owned enterprise, with Jarl's and Evy's children and grandchildren now taking charge. Kinnarps provides interior workspace solutions for offices and public environments. High quality and low environmental impact mark the entire value chain - from raw material to finished solutions for the workspace. Kinnarps is currently one of Europe's largest provider of workspace interior solutions. Sales operations are conducted in about 40 countries and the group had a turnover in 2014/2015 of about SEK 3.8 billion.

#### **Do you have any questions?**

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