



## History, back ground and company philosophy

IoA is a family owned company, and the Delmestri family has been manufacturing furniture for three generations. The company was founded in Udine, Northern Italy in 1933, and was known as a leading manufacturer of contemporary seating designs. In 1978, Dario Delmestri moved the company to the United States, beginning the manufacturing of its collection in a new, 70,000 sq.ft. vertically integrated facility in Thomasville, NC. Most notable of among the IoA products then was the collection of pioneer furniture designer, Eileen Gray. Having discovered these hidden gems of contemporary design during his travels through Europe, Dario set forth to accurately reproduce them, under license from the Eileen Gray estate, and premiered the collection at Museums around the country, including MOMA in New York.



**1978** – Dario Delmestri revives Eileen Grey’s designs at the Museum of Modern Art



In 1988, Fabio Delmestri, fresh off his industrial design studies at Pratt Institute (NY), joined the family business, and began researching an area of design that had interested him: healthcare. Relying on its expertise in metal manufacturing, IoA directed its development efforts towards the most crucial design and practical issues faced by healthcare designers and practitioners at the time, most of which were in the patient room. Tackling universal issues at first, such as durability, comfort and ease of maintenance, IoA then began focusing on more specific departmental needs. Each and every product that IoA has ever developed is a solution to real and pressing needs in healthcare, and because of it has immediate acceptance. This very focused approach is what sets IoA apart in an industry that has a more generic approach to healthcare furnishings.

## SOME OF IOA'S MILESTONES IN HEALTHCARE

**1990** – IoA introduces its first Healthcare Product Collection at Neocon. In September of the same year, in New York City, **IoA receives a Roscoe Award** for its Monty Patient chair. This was the beginning of IoA Healthcare Furniture.



**1993** - IoA, recognizing that multifunctional motion seating (recliners and sleepers) play a crucial role in patient room design, launches its Matteo Series, which today is the most extensive and complete patient room collection in the industry.



**1994** – IoA develops and introduces the Matteo Sleeper recliner, the first Patient Room Recliner with a completely flat position and infinite reclined positions. The combination of reclining and sleeping functions immediately propels the Matteo Sleeper Recliner to the top of IoA's best selling items. ( At **Neocon 2005** IoA has introduced a new generation of sleeper recliners, with its new *Wall-Saver Sleeper Recliner*, a *Rocker Sleeper Recliner* and a *Glider Sleeper Recliner*.)



**1996** – Turning its focus on the concept of the “Universal Room” and overnight guests sleeping solutions, IoA introduces two new firsts in the industry: the Sideline, the first Sleeper Sofa to open to its side, and the Pronto, the first sleeper sofa of its kind. These are the first two of what is now the most extensive offering of sleeping solutions in the industry.



**1996 through today** – IoA continues an ambitious schedule of new product introductions focusing primarily on the patient room, developing more reclining and sleeper solutions and establishing itself as a leader in this niche, in terms of the breadth of the product line, its innovation and quality. Its ability to develop new mechanisms and new technology allows IoA to focus its development process on the Crucial unresolved issues facing healthcare designers.



**1999** – loA introduces the Kangaroo Chair, designed to support and promote Kangaroo Care, a method of caring for premature infants and newborns gaining universal acceptance. The Kangaroo’s phenomenal success takes it beyond the Labor & Delivery and NICU, to all department of the hospitals, and today it is one of loA most recognized designs. It is also the beginning of a departmental approach to product development.



**2001 - loA wins a Nightingale Award** at the Healthcare Symposium, for its Emily Minicliner. The Minicliner is the first recliner to have the scale and the appearance of an open arm high back patient chair, and successfully addresses the aesthetic and practical concerns faced by designers dealing with small rooms.



**2004** – loA introduces the Joey collection for Children’s Hospitals and Pediatric departments. Focusing on the unique needs of these special departments, the Joey collection is designed to bring the child and the parent closer at bedside. The Joey Recliners, Overbed Table and Bedside Table incorporate features that allow for this closeness, while the Joey Sleepers provide comfortable overnight accommodations. The Me Too collection of children’s scaled furniture adds playfulness to the common play areas.



**2005** – loA wins a Nightingale Award for its new mechanism-less sleeper sofa at the Healthcare Design Conference in Scottsdale. It introduces the Cardiac Care Chair for heart Hospitals, the first of a new line of products focusing on the unique needs of Cardiac Care. It also unveils the Cape series, a complete collection that spans the patient room and the waiting room.



**2006 – IoA wins a Nightingale Award** for its new Annina Series, designed to bring a new level of comfort and versatility to the waiting room. It introduces the Oncology Care Chair, the first of a new line of products focusing on the unique needs of Patients undergoing Chemotherapy. It also unveils the a new family of products designed for orthopedic departments.



**Today**, IoA Healthcare Furniture is committed more than ever to continue this process of exploration and innovation. Prompted by much technological innovation, changing economic and demographic trends and advances in medicine, hospitals are constantly changing and adapting. This provides us with endless opportunities for research and development for years to come.



**Healthcare Design Conference – Chicago - 06**



focusing on the complexities of healthcare

[www.ioa-hcf.com](http://www.ioa-hcf.com)  
336 475 7106

