

THE CHAIR

RETHINKING CULTURE, BODY, AND DESIGN

156



TOWARD BODY-CONSCIOUS DESIGN



THE CHAIR REFORMED

Figure 53. Industrial designer Susan Farricielli is creating a new wheelchair following the principles of planar support.

The foldable Everest and Jennings wheelchair was a tremendous advance over bulky modified chairs-on-wheels that preceded it. However, wheelchair users often develop bad posture while using these chairs, not just because of their disability but because of the yielding foldable seat. A sling instead of a plane, it allows the sitter's pelvic bowl to fold in on itself, which allows the entire spine and rib cage to drive down and collapse inward. Those confined to chairs—more than anyone else—need a firm plane for the sit bones to anchor on so that the pelvic wings can open out. This firm structure should of course be padded with sheepskin or some other similar material, but the underlying structure must be firm. The industrial designer Susan Farricielli is creating just such a new wheelchair.⁴ (Fig. 53)

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