

25 Chairs: Eames Lounge to Monobloc and Beyond

Friday, April 17, 2020 6:36 PM

Today

Sketching
Eames Lounge
Monobloc

Need grad section students who have not facilitated yet to step up. Contact me on slack to volunteer for 2 days of presentations

5.5 MATERIAL EXPRESSION



5.5.1 Glossy and Matt

A glossy versus matt appearance of an object is mainly suggested by two characteristics. First, a difference in contrast can be seen. Glossy objects have a bigger contrast, while matt objects largely lack highlights. Moreover, on a flat glossy surface a gradient from full colour towards white can be seen.

The second characteristic has to do with reflections and cast shadow. Reflections dominate on a glossy surface. These reflections always appear mainly in the colour of the glossy material. There is little or no cast shadow on a glossy surface. A matt material displays hardly any reflections, but mainly cast shadow.

In a drawing in which the product material is expressed, it will be effective to exaggerate these characteristics.

Here you see the different marker strategies between glossy and matt material expression.



<https://www.cooperhewitt.org/2017/01/10/title-to-comees108-sofa/>



ES 108 sofa

Eames Lounge Chair and Ottoman (Hermann Miller part numbers 670/671)

Design notes <http://www.eamesoffice.com/blog/eames-lounge-chair-is-cared-for/>

Build process videos:

[How We Make the Eames Lounge Chair: Six New Films About the Classic, n.d.](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBLMoMhIAfM&feature=youtu.be> Eames introduce the lounge chair on national TV, the Today Show, in 1956. Long, and difficult for a feminist to watch.

Eames Lounge Chair and Ottoman

(Hermann Miller part numbers 670/671)

Design notes <http://www.eamesoffice.com/blog/eames-lounge-chair-is-cared-for/>

BRANDMADE.TV. How an Eames Lounge Chair Is Made - BrandmadeTV, 2015. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SFaLpbmP0Yw>. Provides context. Horrible music. 8 minutes.

How We Make the Eames Lounge Chair: Six New Films About the Classic, n.d.

Eames Office. 670/671 (13 Minute Version) by Eames Demetrios, 2013.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=40&v=tbF8QYU4LSA

Designed specifically for mass production, **organically** so that the elements of the mass production process actually enhance the design of the chair. Aimed at the middle class. Now \$4935, still available new from Herman Miller, more than 50 years after its introduction. Priced a bit high for the current middle class.

\$300 Herman Miller Eames Replica Lounge Chair - Is It Any Good? 10/16/2018

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xJ4HjiUbCRs> Review. Doesn't actually recline...

https://www.amazon.com/Mophorn-Ottoman-Century-Recliner-Armchair/dp/B07J4VQT5J/ref=as_li_ss_tl?keywords=eames+replica&qid=1550044298&s=gateway&sr=8-6&th=1&linkCode=sl1&tag=hitmanb88-20&linkId=e8f10eef0c3b3e5ac756250e51193b63&language=en_US \$550





<https://shanechendesign.com/lounge-mouse>

However, the Eames' goal was a single piece, inexpensive chair. Plywood was hard to mold in 3D. They tried stamped steel and aluminum. Eventually they made one from a new material, fiberglass; i.e. glass fibers impregnated with polyester (epoxy) resin: the Shell chair



[View all](#)

The **Eames Molded Plastic & Fiberglass Armchair** is a fiberglass **chair**, designed by Charles and Ray **Eames**, that appeared on the market in 1950. The **chair** was intentionally designed for the 'International Competition for Low-Cost **Furniture** Design.

Designer: Charles and Ray Eames

Style / tradition: Mid-century modern furniture d...

Materials: Zenaloy (polyester reinforced with fi...

Date: 1948-1950

[en.wikipedia.org › wiki › Eames_Fiberglass_Armchair](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eames_Fiberglass_Armchair)

[Eames Fiberglass Armchair - Wikipedia](#)

Life Magazine article, 1950: "Eames is so interested in making the products of his drawing board available at the lowest cost that the modest retail price of his recent chair (\$32.50) bothers him... he guiltily feels that it should sell for less."

Later redone in polypropylene by Robin Day



Robin Day's 1960s stackable Polyside chair relaunches



Emma Tucker | 20 September 2015 | 7 comments

Monobloc

Contrast the Eames Lounge chair to the Monobloc, or Resin chair: \$12.



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Plastic_Tuinstoel.jpg



\$4,935.00USD



\$12

History of the Monobloc

Wikipedia:

The Monobloc chair is a lightweight stackable polypropylene chair, often described[by whom?] as the world's most common plastic chair.

Based on original designs by the Italian designer Vico Magistretti <https://www.pamono.com/designers/vico-magistretti> in 1967, variants of the one-piece plastic chair went into production with Allibert Group and Grosfillex Group in the 1970s. Since then, millions have been manufactured in countries including Russia, Taiwan, Australia, Mexico, the United States, Italy, France, Germany, Morocco, Turkey, Israel and China. Many design variants of the basic idea exist.[1]

The Monobloc chair is named because it is injection molded from thermoplastic polypropylene, the granules being heated to about 220 degrees Celsius, and the melt injected into a mold. The gate of the mold is usually located in the seat, so ensuring smooth flow to all parts of the tool. The chairs cost approximately \$3 to produce, making them affordable across the world.

Victoria and Albert Museum, London

<https://www.pinterest.com/davidortegatorr/vico-magistretti/>

available across the world.

Victoria and Albert Museum, London

<https://www.pinterest.com/davidortegatorr/vico-magistretti/>



"Everybody Take A Seat." *Smithsonian*. Accessed March 2, 2016. <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/people-places/everybody-take-a-seat-2386495/>. Short article describes the ubiquity of the chair, and its mysterious history. "Then, in 1968, came what Fiell calls "one of the most important events in the entire history of furniture design." Danish designer Verner Panton, after ten years of searching for the right plastic, produced the first single-form, single material, injection-molded chair. It achieved total design unity in combination with a high-volume industrial process. Still, Panton's chair was very high style, a single long S curve with a U-shaped base, and demand for it was limited.



<http://www.design-museum.de/en/collection/100-masterpieces/detailseiten/panton-chair-panton.html>

Vitra Museum

2017 exhibit on Monobloc: <http://www.design-museum.de/index.php?id=1821&L=1>

Shortly after 1970, the monobloc began appearing. Probably designed by a plastics manufacturer. Spread worldwide in 1980s. Injection molding machines and the molds are very expensive, but if you can make tens of thousands of something in two minutes each from cheap materials, the payback is pretty quick. A new mold ~ 300K. Used mold ~50K. Polypropylene.



http://www.kailinke.com/en/news/:mirror_chair Mirror Chair by Kai Linke, 2009.

Sidebar:

<https://www.chindogu.com/> Almost Un-Useless designs

Chindogu is in contrast to perfectly useless objects by artist Katerina Kamprani

<https://www.theuncomfortable.com/>



There is a collector for everything under the sun: Bryan Ropar. *Plastic Chair Collection Video From Tosh.O*, 2013.

Impact of the Monobloc Chair

Social theorist Ethan Zuckerman describes them as having achieved a global ubiquity:

"The Monobloc is one of the few objects I can think of that is free of any specific context. Seeing a white plastic chair in a photograph offers you no clues about where or when you are."

John Dunnigan, head of furniture design at the Rhode Island School of Design called the monobloc chair the "emblematic chair of our time" *

* Rybczynski, Witold. *Now I Sit Me Down: From Klismos to Plastic Chair: A Natural History*. First Edition edition. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2016. Pg 210.

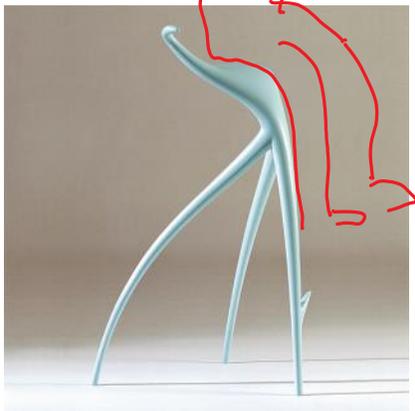
Since Then

Contemporary chairs



<http://www.design-museum.de/en/collection/100-masterpieces/detailseiten/vodoel-coop-himmelblau.html>

Vodol, by Coop Himmelblau



<http://www.design-museum.de/en/collection/100-masterpieces/detailseiten/ww-stool-starck.html>

W.W. Stool by Philippe Starck. Created for Wim Wenders, 1990. Elements of biomorphism; a germinating rhizome, with 3 roots and a shoot.

More on him on later.

Pinterest actually has broad collection

Metro naps