

# 23 Timeline to Chairs

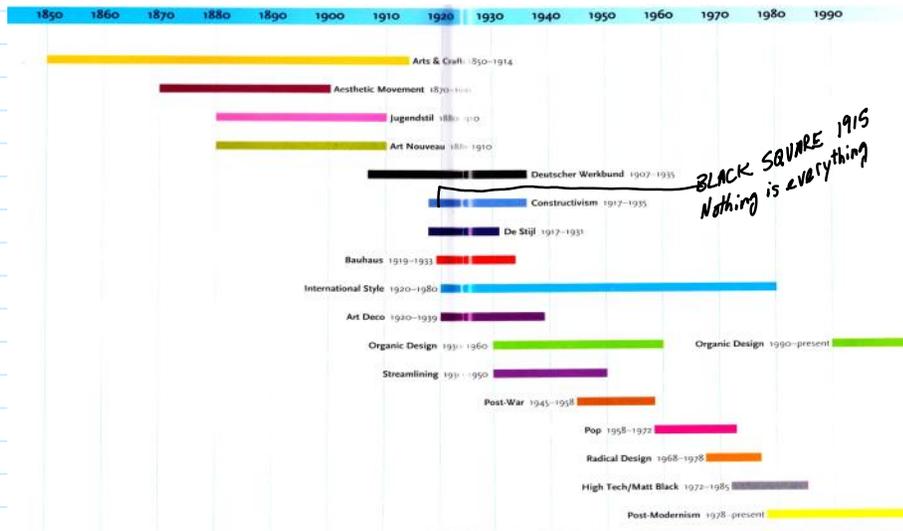
Sunday, March 13, 2016 6:36 PM

## Today

- 10 minutes Team Time
- Blog Comments: Substantive means
  - A positive comment; pull out a strength of the work. BE SPECIFIC.
  - AND
  - Constructive criticism: question, suggestion. BE SPECIFIC, take the time to write.
- Chairs timeline
- Case studies:
  - Eames lounge chair
  - Ubiquitous Plastic Chair: Monobloc
- End of class today: Feedback. Strengths and improvements to the course so far. Have we missed topics of interest? Photography workshop? Should final presentations just be to pods?, have 2 weeks project only time?
- Results:
  - Team interactions - Team eval survey is active. Due by April 8
  - Mixed response regarding pods for final presentations
  - Good suggestions about expo, additional topics, will try to add next week
  - Lukewarm interest in photo workshop; will be optional, in class April 20
  
- Expo Registration is open now, and will close at 4:00pm on Friday, April 15th. Please register early. Register as an individual, or coordinate with your team to make sure space requirements will accommodate all of you.

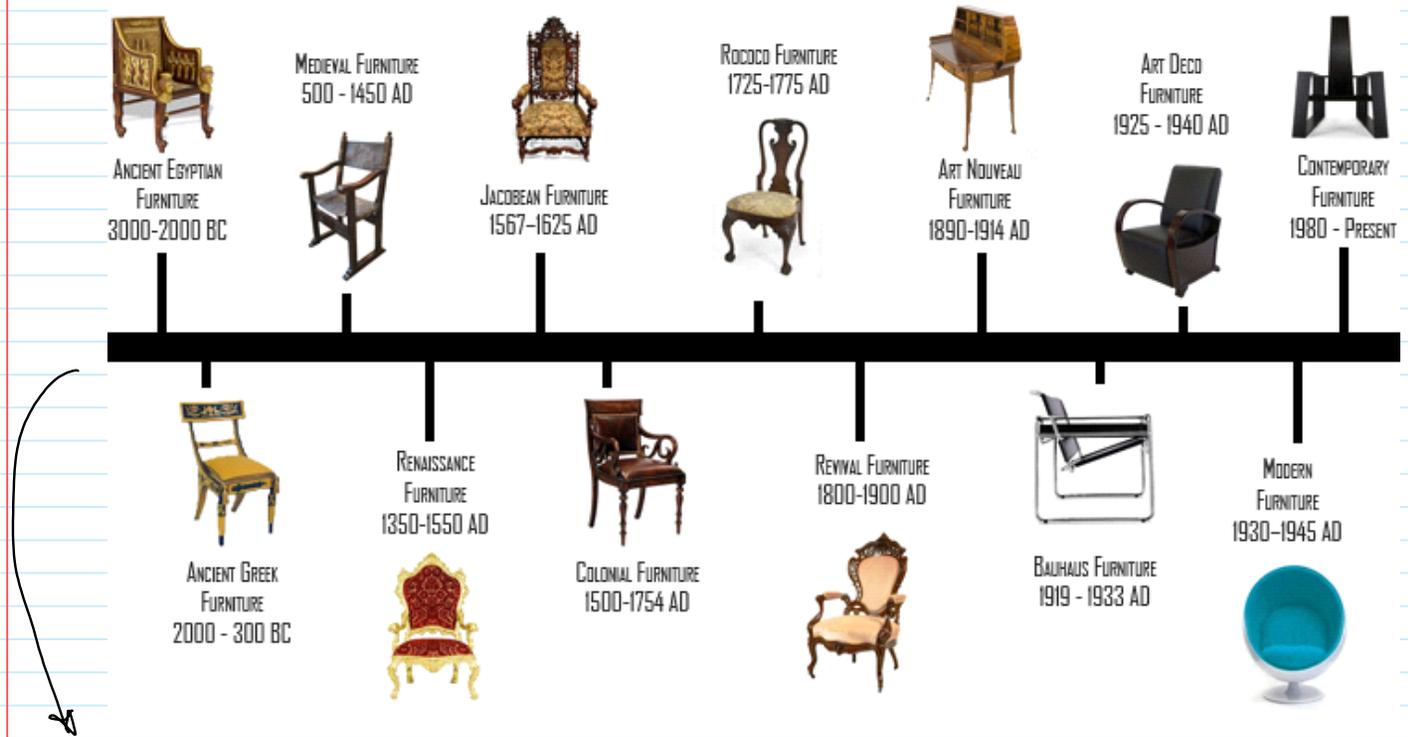
Expo Registration Link:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1SQZrKVebyYJ803NmBKKudVOHt9plZFCNtLqSsn6g2Ag/viewform?usp=send\\_form](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1SQZrKVebyYJ803NmBKKudVOHt9plZFCNtLqSsn6g2Ag/viewform?usp=send_form)



## Design Movements in Furniture

<http://www.onlinedesignteacher.com/2016/02/furniture-design-history.html> Has additional examples and closeups



What are the elements that define each one? Visual, materials, fabrication techniques, philosophy?

<http://www.connectedlines.com/styleguide/index.htm> has details of pre-1920 styles. Chippendale etc. Not the same categories as above.

<http://www.furniturestyles.net/> Another timeline with examples. More text, not so many images.

- Prehistoric
- Ancient Egyptian
- Ancient Greek
- Medieval
- Renaissance
- Jacobean <http://www.furniturestyles.net/european/english/jacobean.html>
- Colonial
- Rococco
- Revival
- Arts and Crafts?
- Art Nouveau
- Bauhaus
- Art Deco
- Modern
- Contemporary

## Modern Chairs

20th Century +

<http://www.design-museum.de/en/collection/100-masterpieces.html> Vitra Design Museum site. Basel, Germany. Great website; many illustrations and informative text.

Modern design is a bit personality driven. The Design Encyclopedia is nothing more than a list of designers and who they worked for/with.

Byars, Mel. *The Design Encyclopedia*. Laurence King Publishing, 2004.

OK, fine, so let's look at specific designers:

Charles and Ray Eames, husband and wife, members of Mid Century Modern/Organic design movement. Pioneered fiberglass and molded plywood seating. Many designs for huge furniture manufacturer Hermann Miller (Grand Rapids, MI). Eames Intro: <http://www.eamesoffice.com/eames-office/charles-and-ray/>  
Organic: Incorporated user experience philosophy (the good host, anticipating needs, providing comfort) with pioneering manufacturing process; formed plywood shells + upholstery  
Herman Miller. *America Meets Charles and Ray Eames*, 2011. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBLMoMhIAfM&feature=youtu.be>.

You have probably sat in this at an airport:



Eames Tandem Sling, by [Herman Miller](#). Still available new. Aluminum frame, vinyl fabric. 2 seater \$4200 up to 47 seats for \$24K. Refurbished with leather, \$6K on Etsy. I always try to sit in these at airports; they fit me.

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.

Contrast the Eames Lounge chair to the Monobloc:

"Everybody Take A Seat." *Smithsonian*. Accessed March 2, 2016. <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/people-places/everybod>

Bryan Ropar. *Plastic Chair Collection Video From Tosh.O*, 2013. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=PLOGsOtujqLgT7k71oh5g44Gc29UyM\\_QZZ&time\\_continue=10&v=endP6hTviXE.y-take-a-seat-2386495/](https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=PLOGsOtujqLgT7k71oh5g44Gc29UyM_QZZ&time_continue=10&v=endP6hTviXE.y-take-a-seat-2386495/).

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 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 moulded from thermoplastic polypropylene, the granules being heated to about 220 degrees Celsius, and the melt injected into a mold. The gate of the mould 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.

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.

<http://www.demilked.com/creative-and-modern-chairs-2/> Post-Modern/Contemporary chairs