## 27 Chairs: Eames

Wednesday, April 14, 2021 6:36 PM

## **Today**

Gary Marshall on Carlos Cruz-Diez Eames Lounge

## **Modern Chairs**

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: <a href="http://www.eamesoffice.com/eames-office/charles-and-ray/">http://www.eamesoffice.com/eames-office/charles-and-ray/</a>

They made a number of educational films as well. My favorite is •

Powers of Ten: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0fKBhvDjuy0">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0fKBhvDjuy0</a>

Eames were big in the Organic movement: Incorporated user experience philosophy (the good host, providing comfort) with pioneering manufacturing process; formed plywood shells + upholstery <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tUOFhnWTbm0">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tUOFhnWTbm0</a> The Eames Creative Process.

You have probably sat in this at an airport:



Eames Tandem Sling, by <u>Herman Miller</u>. 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.

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

Cooper Hewitt is the US design museum, part of the Smithsonian, located in NYC

ES 108 sofa



## Eames Lounge Chair and Ottoman



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

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(Hermann Miller part numbers 670/671)

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

BRANDMADE.TV. How an Eames Lounge Chair Is Made - BrandmadeTV, 2015. <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SFaLpbmP0Yw">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SFaLpbmP0Yw</a>. 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.

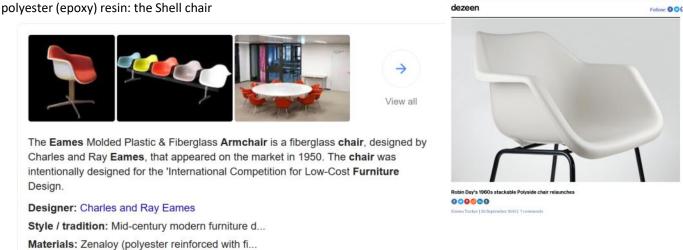
\$300 Herman Miller Eames Replica Lounge Chair - Is It Any Good? 10/16/2018
<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xJ4HjiUbCRs">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xJ4HjiUbCRs</a> Review. Doesn't actually recline...

https://www.amazon.com/Mophorn-Ottoman-Century-Recliner-Armchair/dp/B07J4VQT5J/ref=as li ss tl?



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



Later redone in polypropylene by Robin Day

en.wikipedia.org > wiki > Eames\_Fiberglass\_Armchair \*
Eames Fiberglass Armchair - Wikipedia

Date: 1948-1950

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." \$32 in 1950 is equivalent to \$350 today.

