

# 28 Chairs

Wednesday, April 10, 2019 3:19 PM

START ZOOM recording

Today

Colin Neeson	?	Hunter Maul	Design Preview	Roger Carter	Karim Rashid
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Schedule

Final report specs, Expo logistics

Chairs. Thonet to Eames

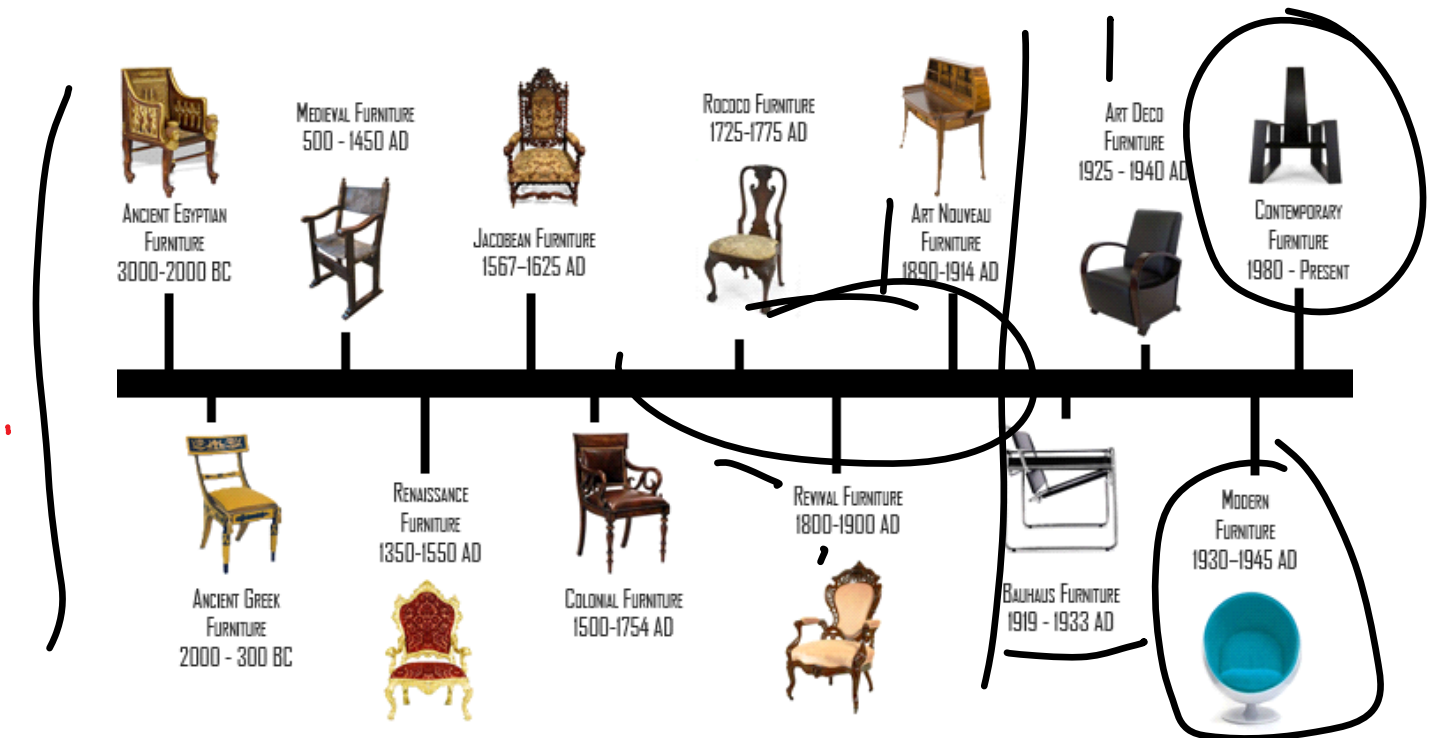
yes Clickers!!

## Case Study: The Chair

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

## 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

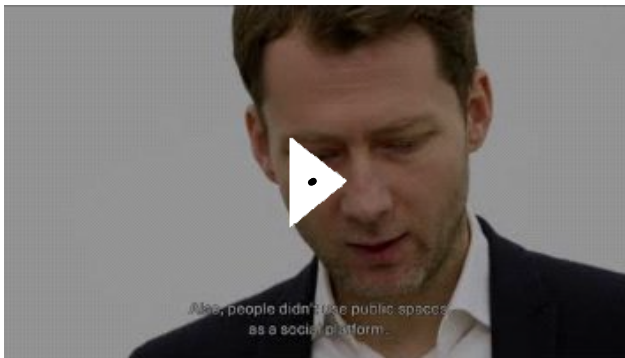
## Modern Chairs

20th Century +

<http://www.design-museum.de/en/collection/100-masterpieces.html> Vitra Design Museum site. Basel, Germany.

Southwest, near Switzerland. Focuses on furniture and lighting, and some other industrial design collections.

[Vitra Chair Times](#)



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.

Let's start with industrialization of chairs. Prior to 19th century, chairs were carved from solid wood pieces, by hand.

1836 Michael Thonet. From Czech Republic. Large beechwood forests. Developed lamination process for making bentwood chairs. Boiled strips of wood with glue, put in molds, etc. A type of early plywood.



## Michael Thonet

Austrian-German cabinet maker

Still found in cafes  
around the world

Michael Thonet was a German-Austrian cabinet maker, known for the invention of bentwood furniture. [Wikipedia](#)

**Born:** July 2, 1796, Boppard, Germany

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**Died:** March 3, 1871, [Vienna, Austria](#)

Later (1856) he also figured out how to bend solid wood sticks. Cut reliefs on inside of curve, steamed and molded.