

28 Chairs: Bauhaus to Eames

Friday, April 12, 2024

3:19 PM

Today

Jon Ezell	Earthsh ip Homes
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Thonet company, 200 years old, is still big in furniture today: <http://en.thonet.de/starbete.html>. Pioneered mass manufacturing and mass marketing.
This allowed independent chair designers to begin to work in late 19th century; neither cabinetmakers nor manufacturers

Chairs. Thonet to Eames

Le Corbusier liked bentwood better. Designed some chairs, inspired others.

Dutch designer Gerrit Rietveld chair. Designed 1918 as work of art. Not very comfortable. Yes, part of De Stijl (Mondrian)

Alvar and Aino Aalto, Finnish architects, husband and wife. Palmio lounge chair

Eames then moved away, Saarinen went on to design the Womb chair in 1948 with a fiberglass shell.
My mother loved this chair. I spent my childhood curled up in it watching TV.

Then, Bauhaus' protégé Marcel Breuer graduated 1925, immediately became furniture design teacher and built Wassily chair:
Authentic with ottoman \$7000



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: <https://www.simsoffice.com/newsroom/charles-and-ray/>

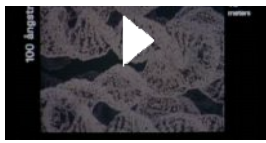
Designed for a tuberculosis sanatorium, 1929. This one is actually comfortable.

Knock-off \$600

[The Eames Creative Process](#)

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

Powers of Ten: [Powers of Ten™ \(1977\)](#)
(9 minutes)



Powers of Ten: Powers of Ten™ (1977) (9 minutes)

1.

Clicker:

Nope, not interested



Save \$100

Womb Chair

★★★★☆ Reviews

Price \$499

Out of stock

1.381

WOMB CHAIR



Eames were big in the Organic movement; incorporated user experience philosophy (the good host, providing comfort) with pioneering manufacturing process; formed plywood shells + upholstery

You have probably sat in this at an airport:



2.

"This was the first technical innovation in furniture making since Thonet invented... good 65 years earlier" Eames introduce the lounge chair on national TV, the Home Show, in 1956. Long... difficult for a feminist to watch. I've already seen it, no thanks

Charles and Ray Eames make the Reading Chair:



If you didn't like it, are you a) tall > 5'10" b) Less than 5'10

3.

I've already seen it, sure, happy to see it again

Yes I have, it's great

Eames Tandem Sling, by Herman Miller. Still available new. Aluminum frame, vinyl fabric. 2 seater \$5000 up to 7 seats X2 rows (back to back) for \$30K. Two seater, refurbished with leather, \$6K on Etsy. I always try to sit in these at airports; they fl... tme.

Yes, it's like any other chair

Now I sit me down, pg 121. America Meets Charles and Ray Eames

4.

Yes, let's watch it!

Reasons for dislike:

Nope, haven't seen it

This chair had huge impact. Bauhaus was big in architecture, and now had a model in furniture.



ature.

The Organic Chair – a small and comfortable reading chair – was 1 version for the 1940 'Organic Design in Home Furnishings' compati Museum of Modern Art in New York. With its sculptural shapes, the times. But due to the absence of suitable manufacturing techniques went into production. Not until 1950 did it become possible to manu organically shaped seat shells in large quantities, as exemplified by Eames's famous Plastic Armchair or Saarinen's Tulip Chair.

However, as the young designers soon discovered, the technology required for the three -dimensional molding of plywood shells was not yet available. While it was possible to produce shells manually for the prototypes, it became clear that considerable technical advancements would be necessary before the chair could be mass produced.



Not big enough for large people

My parents bought one. Was uncomfortable, and they quickly sold it. It's still iconic, and available.

Too hard, not soft enough

Recognizing the innovative, ground-breaking approach adopted by Eames and Saarinen, MoMA's jury of experts – which included Marcel Breuer and Alfred Barr, the founding director of the museum – awarded their design first prize.

Smells bad

Material doesn't age well

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