

A museum gallery with various modern design objects on display in glass cases. The objects include a black chair, a blue chair, a wire sculpture, a red woven chair, a blue perforated chair, and an orange bowl. The background is a light blue wall.

# Dimensions of Design

Vitra Design Museum

**Dimensions of Design - 100 Classical Seats**  
**An exhibition of miniatures by the Vitra Design Museum**

No piece of furniture has attracted the attention of designers, architects and artists alike as has the chair. The chair is closely related to the shape of the human body, it is the depiction of our body and has arms, legs, feet and a back. The chair has assumed a key role in the history of design - as an experimental object, as the motor driving new developments forwards and as an icon. It has long since advanced from being an everyday utilitarian object to attain the status of an artistic event.

In the exhibition Dimensions of Design, 100 miniatures of classical seats convey the significance of design and the role it plays in the industrial production process. These classical chairs, exact 1:6 replicas of the originals, are presented on plinths in an elegant installation. The exhibition is accompanied by 40 wall-mounted panels comprising photographs, original drawings and time-lines. An integral component of the exhibition is a booklet which guides the observer through the world of chairs and provides detailed descriptions of each exhibit.

The transport and installation costs of the exhibition Dimensions of Design have been kept comparatively low, to enable smaller museums, galleries and design centers to afford it. We are particularly pleased that, in cooperation with the Goethe Institute, the exhibition will tour Latin America, Asia and Africa.



**Dimensions of Design**  
1999 in Milan

## **Dimensions of Design - Chairs that have taken their place in history**

Since 1992, the chair miniatures produced by the Vitra Design Museum have earned a deserved reputation as high-quality, true-to-scale collectors' items. The Miniatures Collection, which is meant for sales purposes, meanwhile comprises more than 80 models; by contrast, 100 prototypes of classical seats dating from between approx. 1800 and 1990 have been developed for the exhibition.

In our exhibition, viewer's attention is directed towards the perfectly crafted true-to-scale character of the miniatures. It is visually easy to grasp a chair as a miniature, its proportions stand out even more distinctly than in the original object. The concentrated, clearly-defined world of the miniatures helps viewers find their bearings in the manifold styles of contemporary design.

Chairs provide us with information on social connections, on the age in which they were created as well as on those manners of sitting which are considered exemplary. In our exhibition, the chairs are considered not as isolated phenomena but are placed firmly in their cultural and historical context. Reproduced documents from the archive of the Vitra Design Museum illustrate the path of development of the seats from the first draft via production to their actual use.



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## **Dimensions of Design - 100 Classical Seats**

### **Exhibition objects**

100 miniature chairs - exact 1:6 scale replicas of the originals

### **Installation**

Each object has been positioned on a pyramid-shaped plinth and positioned inside a Plexiglas cube using a magnet. The size of the cube is 25 x 25 x 25 cm. Each plinth is made of white varnished fiberglass, is 127 cm high and has a base of 40 x 40 cm.

### **Educational aspects**

The history of furniture design from 1800 to 1990 is presented in terms of nine groups. Each group is described in an introductory text. Furthermore, faithful reproductions of drawings, photographs and catalogues are exhibited. A time-line provides background information on social, political, economic and artistic developments during each epoch.

A color-coding system ensures easy orientation in the exhibition.

### **Exhibition area**

Depending on the layout, the exhibition takes up an area of 140 to 400 sq. m. Various layouts are possible, ensuring the exhibition can be adapted to the size and dimensions of the respective venue. The exhibition can be laid out as a square (e.g. consisting of 10 x 10 units) or as a room divider in one long row or according to groups.

### **Wall area**

Wall panels, reproductions of original documents, and time-lines are all presented in flat aluminum frames. For the documentation, which can be subdivided into nine groups, approx. 35 running meters of wall space are required.

**Transport**

The exhibition has been specially designed to ensure a low transport volume and easy handling. The exhibition is packed into thirteen crates: eight for the plinths, four crates for the Plexiglas cubes including the exhibits, and one crate for the framed documentation. The transport volume amounts to approx. 20 cubic meters.

**Insurance**

The exhibition is insured by the Vitra Design Museum wall to wall. Insurance costs are included in the acceptance fee.

**Mounting and dismounting**

The complete installation is delivered together with the exhibition. If lighting, wall and spatial conditions have been well prepared, the exhibition can be assembled in as little as one and a half days.

**Exhibition catalogue**

The booklet Dimensions of Design - 100 classical Seats, 250 pages, 12 x 17 cm. contains detailed descriptions of each individual miniature. The catalogue includes descriptions of the history of the design and reception of the chairs, the production process and details of each particular construction. The booklet is available at present in German, English and Spanish. Further versions in Japanese and French are planned.

**Accompanying products**

The Miniatures Collection as well as publications and other articles for your museum shop can be acquired at reasonable conditions. We should be pleased to provide you with a separate offer.

## **Dimensions of Design - Exhibition objects**

### **Group 1 (up to 1900)**

- 1 Windsor Chair, anonymous, beginning of the 19th century
- 2 Michael Thonet, Boppard Chair, approx. 1836
- 3 Shaker Chair, anonymous, approx. 1840
- 4 Michael Thonet, Chair No. 14, 1859-60
- 5 Chair from bent iron, anonymous, approx. 1865
- 6 Rocking Chair No. 9, Jakob and Josef Kohn, approx. 1882-83
- 7 Henry Van de Velde, Chair for "Bloemenwerf House", 1895
- 8 Adolf Loos, Chair for the Café Museum, around 1898

### **Group 2 (1900 to 1920)**

- 9 Charles Rennie Mackintosh, Hill House Chair, 1903
- 10 Thomas Lee, Westport Chair, 1903
- 11 Chair No. 511, Gebr. Thonet, 1905
- 12 Josef Hoffmann, No. 728, Fledermaus (Bat), 1905
- 13 Josef Hoffmann, Sitzmaschine (Sitting Machine), approx. 1905
- 14 Josef Hoffmann, Chair No. 371, 1905-6
- 15 Otto Wagner, Chair for the Viennese Post Office Savings Bank, 1905
- 16 Frank Lloyd Wright, Robie House Chair, 1908
- 17 Vlastislav Hofman, PUD-Chair, 1911-12
- 18 Gerrit Thomas Rietveld, Roodblauwe Stoel, 1918

### **Group 3 (1921 to 1930)**

- 19 Frank Lloyd Wright, Peacock Chair, 1921-22
- 20 Gerrit Thomas Rietveld, Militaire Stoel, 1923
- 21 Marcel Breuer, Wassily, 1925
- 22 Mart Stam, W1, 1926
- 23 Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, MR 20, 1927
- 24 Heinz and Bodo Rasch, Sitzgeiststuhl

### **Group 4 (1931 to 1940)**

- 34 Alvar Aalto, Paimio Chair, 1930-31
- 35 Hans and Wassili Luckhardt, ST 14, 1931
- 36 Marcel Breuer, Lounge Chair No. 313, 1932
- 37 Gerald Summers, Plywood Chair, 1933-34
- 38 Gerrit Thomas Rietveld, Zig-Zag Stoel, 1932-34

- 40 Guisepe Terragni, Scagno, 1935-36
- 41 Hans and Wassili Luckhardt, Siesta Medizinal, 1936
- 42 Alvar Aalto, Lounge Chair No. 39, 1936
- 43 Jacques André, Garden Chair, 1936
- 44 Hans Coray, Landi, 1938
- 45 Grupo Austral, Hardoy Chair, 1938

**Group 5 (1941 to 1950)**

- 46 Charles Eames and Eero Saarinen, Organic Armchair, 1940
- 47 Jens Risom, Armchair No. 654 W, 1941-42
- 48 Charles and Ray Eames, LCW, 1945
- 49 H. V. Thaden, Plywood Chair, 1947
- 50 Charles and Ray Eames, RAR, 1948
- 51 Jean Prouvé, Antony, 1950

**Group 6 (1951 to 1960)**

- 52 Charles and Ray Eames, DKR, 1951
- 53 André Bloc, Bellevue, 1951
- 54 Mathieu Matégot, Nagasaki, 1952
- 55 Gio Ponti, Superleggera, 1951-57
- 56 Harry Bertoia, Diamond Chair, 1952
- 57 Charlotte Perriand, Ombre, 1953-55
- 58 Sori Yanagi, Butterfly, 1954
- 59 Willy Guhl, Garden Chair, 1954
- 60 Achille and Pier Giacomo Castiglioni, Mezzadro, 1954-57
- 61 Arne Jacobsen, No. 3107, 1955
- 62 George Nelson, Coconut Chair, 1955
- 63 George Nelson, Marshmallow, 1956
- 64 Charles and Ray Eames, Lounge Chair, 1956
- 65 Eero Saarinen, No. 151, Tulip Chair, 1956
- 66 Verner Panton, K 3, 1958
- 67 Charles and Ray Eames, Alu Chair, 1958
- 68 Marco Zanuso, Richard Sapper, Lambda, 1959-64
- 69 Verner Panton, Panton Chair, 1959-60

**Group 7 (1961 bis 1970)**

- 70. David Rowland, 40/4, ca. 1959-1964
- 71. Giandomenico Belotti, Spaghetti, 1962
- 72. Hans Wegner, 3-benet Skalstol, 1963

73. Joe Colombo, Universale, 1965
74. Gruppo Strum, Pratone, 1966,
75. Eero Aarnio, Pastilli, 1967
76. Giancarlo Piretti, Plia, 1968
77. Gaetano Pesce, Donna, 1969
78. Archizoom Associati, Mies, 1969

#### **Group 8 (1971 bis 1980)**

79. Achille Castiglioni, Primate, 1970
80. Studio 65, Capitello, 1971
81. Frank O. Gehry, Wiggle Side Chair, 1972
82. Luigi Colani, Sitzgerät Colani, 1972
83. Gerd Lange, Flex, 1974
84. Alessandro Mendini, Sedia Spaziale, 1975
85. Enzo Mari, Box, 1976
86. Stefan Wewerka, B 1, 1976
87. Mario Bellini, Cab, 1976
88. Robert Venturi, Queen Anne, 1979-1984

#### **Group 9 (1981 bis 1990)**

89. Ettore Sottsass, Seggiolina da Pranzo, 1980
90. Michele De Lucchi, First, 1983
91. Stiletto, Consumer's Rest, 1983
92. Gaetano Pesce, Greene Street Chair, 1984
93. Andrea Branzi, Animali Domestici, 1985
94. Ron Arad, Well Tempered Chair, 1986
95. André Dubreuil, Spine, 1986
96. Jasper Morrison, Thinking Man's Chair, 1986
97. Jasper Morrison, Ply Chair, 1989
98. Frank O. Gehry, Rolf's Chair, 1990
99. Philippe Starck, W.W. Stool, 1990
100. Philippe Starck, Louis 20, 1991

## **Dimensions of Design - An exhibition by the Vitra Design Museum**

The Vitra Design Museum is one of the world's leading museums for design. Housed in a building created by Californian architect Frank O. Gehry, Vitra Design Museum first opened its doors to the public in 1989. The Museum is dedicated to documenting the history and current trends in industrial furniture design. Vitra Design Museum exhibitions on themes related to design and architecture are also shown around the world in renowned partner museums. In this context, Vitra Design Museum holds workshops for school pupils and students, while the in-house publication company also brings out books and special editions of objects.

The Vitra Design Museum was established in 1989 as an independent foundation and finances itself for the most part by its own activities.

## **Dimensions of Design - 100 Classical Seats**

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