

**Make Your Own
Wiggle Side Chair
Lesson Plan – GCSE & Above**

Skills that you'll use

- You will learn more about materials and their properties
- You will learn about key designs and their designers



Materials needed

- Pencil or pen
- Some paper
- A ruler
- Scissors
- Cardboard (corrugated is best)
- Glue stick or double-sided sticky tape
- Tape measure (optional)



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Activity plan

Introduction (5mins)

In the early 1970s Frank Gehry was a young architect with an adventurous approach to design. Gehry has planned innovative architecture including Museums and buildings for Disney but in the 1970s he created a line of cardboard furniture known as 'Easy Edges'.

Cardboard was a familiar material to Gehry who would use it for architectural models. Using a jigsaw and some corrugated cardboard he set out to make furniture including sofa, armchair, desk and chair. The most famous piece of Frank Gehry's furniture came in the form of the Wiggle Side Chair, an elegant but strange chair that took its name from its shape.

Soon Gehry was known for his successful range of cardboard furniture that retailed for high prices. His aim was to take an everyday material that we usually take for granted and make it desirable and associated with high end design.

Gehry decided to stop manufacturing the 'Easy Edges' furniture line because it took him away from his first love, architecture.

Watch the Design Museum film about the Wiggle Chair and learn more about this weird, unconventional design.



Activity plan

Discuss (5-10mins)

- What did you think about the idea of having all your furniture made from cardboard?
- What problems do you think cardboard would cause if you made furniture from it?
- What else around your home could you make from cardboard?
- Can you think of any other materials that we take for granted (perhaps some that are used in packaging)?

Research (10 mins)

- Go online and find some of Frank Gehry's architecture.
- Search for his dancing building in Prague, the Walt Disney Concert hall, the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao or even the Vitra Design Museum.
- What do you notice about the shapes that Gehry uses?
- What words would you use to describe the look of the buildings?



Activity plan

Activity (20 mins)

Find some cardboard around your house. Preferably this would be corrugated cardboard. That's the stuff with the wiggly bits in the middle. This can be a delivery box, a take-away box or even some packaging. Make sure that no one is using it before you take it. Use the template in the next slide. Place a piece of paper on top and trace the template. You may need to rescale it slightly.

Top tip

- Don't make it too big. Around the height of a tea mug is big enough.

Once you've traced the template, cut the traced silhouette of the Wiggle Chair out. Now place this on a piece of cardboard and carefully draw around the edges. Do this several times. You may need to do this up to 10 or more times. Cut out the cardboard shapes and stick them together like a big sandwich with lots of layers.

Now that you've made your very own Wiggle Side Chair share it with the Design Museum on social media using **#DesignFromHome**.





Optional tasks

Extra

Find a chair in your home to recreate from cardboard.

Work out how many sides the chair that you are looking to recreate has. Use a ruler to help you measure out each side on the cardboard. If you have a tape measure at home then you can make a scale version of your chair. Cut the sections of card out and stick them together using glue or double-sided sticky tape.

Take a picture of your end model next to the chair that you used and share it on social media with **#DesignFromHome** hashtag.

