the DESIGN MUSEUM

a century of chairs

Tour Proposal



designmuseum.org

The Design Museum Touring Programme

The programme was set up in 2002 with the aim of bringing design exhibitions to audiences around the UK and internationally. Since then, the museum has toured more than 120 exhibitions to 102 venues in 30 countries worldwide.

The Design Museum's touring exhibitions range in size from 150 to 1000 square metres and cover all areas of design – architecture, fashion, furniture, graphics, product and more.

About the Design Museum

The Design Museum is the world's leading museum devoted to architecture and design. Its work encompasses all elements of design, including fashion, product and graphic design. Since it opened its doors in 1989, the museum has displayed everything from an AK-47 to high heels designed by Christian Louboutin. It has staged over 100 exhibitions, welcomed over five million visitors and showcased the work of some of the world's most celebrated designers and architects including Paul Smith, Zaha Hadid, Jonathan Ive, Miuccia Prada, Frank Gehry, Eileen Gray and Dieter Rams. On 24 November 2016, the Design Museum relocated to Kensington, West London. Architect John Pawson converted the interior of a 1960s modernist building to create a new home for the Design Museum, giving it three times more space in which to show a wider range of exhibitions and significantly extend its learning programme.

In May 2018, the Design Museum was awarded the title of European Museum of the Year.

Contents

6 Exhibition overview
12 Exhibitions details
13 Terms and conditions
14 Contact



the Design Museum, London

the DESIGN MUSEUM



CHAISE LOUNGE LC4, CHARLOTTE PERRIAND, LE CORBUSIER, PIERRE JEANNERET



Stool 60, Alvar Aalto

Exhibition overview

At a time when design is enjoying unprecedented popularity with the public, A Century of Chairs offers an engaging and informative opportunity to trace the history of modern design through the evolution of one object – the chair. The exhibition features a collection of seventy classic chairs from the Design Museum Collection – each of which illustrates a landmark in aesthetics, functionality, materials, production technology or sustainability.

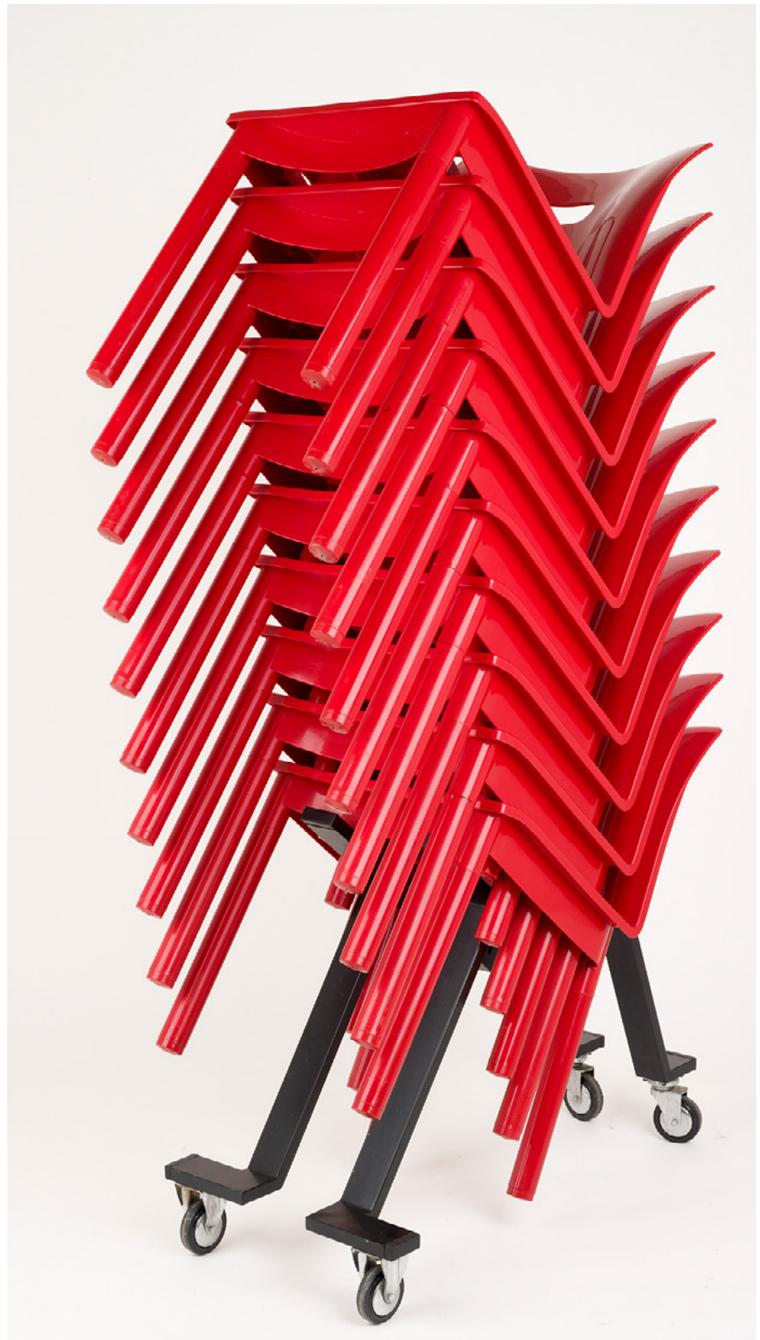
No object tells the history of modern design more eloquently than the chair. From Michael Thonet's discovery of how to mass-manufacture bentwood chairs in the late 19th century and Marcel Breuer's pioneering use of tubular steel at the Bauhaus in the 1920s, to Charles and Ray Eames' plywood innovations in the 1940s, the pop-inspired plastic chairs of Verner Panton and Joe Colombo in the 1960s and recent advances by contemporary designers, such as Jasper Morrison and the Bouroullec brothers, the chair has long been a focus of experimentation for modern designers.

Featuring 70 classic chairs from the Design Museum Collection, A Century of Chairs assesses the design and development of the chair in terms of aesthetics, functionality, technology, ergonomics and sustainability. Some of the chairs in this exhibition are extraordinarily flamboyant, such as Charles and Ray Eames' spectacular La Chaise, first designed in 1948 but not produced until decades later, or the Crown Chair welded by Tom Dixon in his London workshop during the late 1980s. Other chairs are remarkable examples of technological innovation: notably Marcel Breuer's 1925-1927 Wassily, which was one of the first chairs to be made from tubular metal, and pioneering plastic chairs from Verner Panton's sensual 1960 Panton Chair to the equally innovative Air Chair developed by Jasper Morrison as recently as 1999.









1 Mezzadro, Achille & Pier Giacomo Castiglioni
2 Zig-Zag, Gerrit Thomas Reitveld
3 Red Blue Chair, Gerrit Thomas Reitveld
4 4870 Stacking Chairs, Anna Castelli Ferrieri



GRASSWORKS 2.0, JAIR STRASCHNOW

Exhibition details

Design Museum Curator
Gemma Curtin

Venues (selected)
Design Museum, 2003

Design Centre, Barnsley, 2004

Cartwright Hall, Bradford, 2008

The Civic, Barnsley, 2010

Cheongju International Craft Biennale, 2011

Storey Gallery, Lancaster, 2012

Sewerby Hall, Yorkshire, 2015

Tour Availability
from Spring 2022

Space
200 – 400 square metres

Exhibition view, The Civic, Barnsley

Terms and conditions

Hire fee, on request, includes:

– Curation and exhibition concept
– Tour management by Design Museum staff
– Exhibits
– Images and films
– Exhibition text in English

Costs payable by the venue:

– Hire fee, in instalments
– Exhibition and graphic design
– Share of transport and crating costs
– Storage of empty crates
– Nail-to-nail insurance
– All costs relating to exhibition production
– Installation and de-installation costs
– Marketing



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Contact

To find out more about this exhibition and other tours available from 2021 onwards, please contact:

Charlotte Bulté
Head of Touring Exhibitions
charlotte.bulte@designmuseum.org
00 44 (0) 20 3862 5883

designmuseum.org/exhibitions/touring-exhibitions

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the Design Museum
224–238 Kensington High Street
London, W8 6AG
Charity no. 800630

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