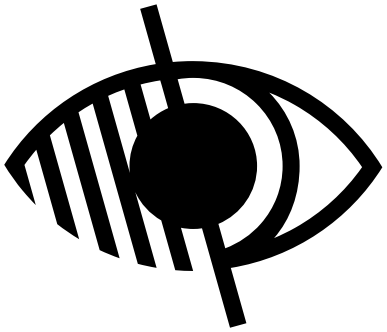
the Design Museum cafe

Coffee Break!

Large Print Guide



the DESIGN MUSEUM

Coffee Break!

Did you know that the Design Museum's collection contains many objects related to making, serving and drinking coffee?

Coffee is part of the everyday routine of millions worldwide.

How we make and serve coffee presents a unique design challenge: one that combines stovetop engineering with the pleasure of daily rituals. From domestic tool for turning beans into brew to ergonomic pots built for in-flight turbulence, these objects show how design shapes every part of our sipping experience.

You can see more objects from our collection on the top floor, or peek into our collection store on Levels -1 and -2.

Object labels, left to right

Museum coffee pot, 1942–45

This coffee pot made its debut in 1946 at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. It was the museum's first solo exhibition of a woman designer’s work.

Designed by Eva Zeisel
Produced by Castleton China
United States
Porcelain

Design Museum Collection: 2026.012

Chemex Coffee Maker, 1941

A chemist by trade, Schlumbohm based this coffee maker on a laboratory flask. No metal touches the coffee, preserving its flavour.

Designed by Peter Schlumbohm
Produced by Chemex Corp.
United States
Borosilicate glass, wood, leather

Design Museum Collection: 2019.432
Gift of David and Anne Ryan

Cupola coffee set, 1985

Bellini gave this coffee set a playful quality by exaggerating the lid, spout and handles. The name, Cupola, is Italian for 'dome.'

Designed by Mario Bellini
Produced by Rosenthal
West Germany
Porcelain

Design Museum Collection: 1991.103
Gift of Rosenthal

Space Cup, 2016

This coffee cup is designed for use in zero gravity. Its narrow spout draws coffee straight up to the drinker's lips.

Designed by Mark Weislogel, Andrew Wollmann, John Graf and Donald Pettit
United States
3D-printed plastic

Design Museum Collection: 2017.005
Gift of IRPID

Concept ‘Swan Lake’ coffee pot, 1977

Designer Martin Hunt gave this pot its smooth finish by tumbling it with ceramic pellets instead of applying a glaze.

Designed by Queensberry Hunt
(David Queensberry and Martin Hunt)
Produced by Hornsea Pottery
United Kingdom
Stoneware

Design Museum Collection: 2019.383
Gift of David Queensberry in memory of Martin Hunt

Scandinavian Airlines coffee pot, 1988

This pot’s design allows flight attendants to safely pour coffee with one hand without spilling.

Designed by Ergonomi Design Gruppen
(Maria Benktzon and Sven-Eric Juhlin)
Produced by Dynoplast
Norway
Polycarbonate plastic, steel

Design Museum Collection: 1990.034
Gift of Dynoplast

Moka Express, 1933

Engineer Alfonso Bialetti came up with the idea for this coffee maker after watching steam push water up through laundry.

Designed by Alfonso Bialetti
Produced by Bialetti
Italy
Aluminium, nylon

Design Museum Collection: 2004.011

La Conica coffee pot, 1980–83

Architect Aldo Rossi often worked with simple shapes in his buildings. This pot uses a cylinder, cone and sphere to suggest a small tower.

Designed by Aldo Rossi
Produced by Alessi
Italy
Stainless steel, copper

Design Museum Collection: 1996.023
Gift of Alessi

Black Basalt coffee set, 1963–66

Minkin revived an 18th-century Wedgwood material for this coffee set, giving it a modern, Scandinavian-inspired shape aimed at younger buyers.

Designed by Robert Minkin
Produced by Wedgwood
United Kingdom
Stoneware

Design Museum Collection: 1995.007

Acknowledgements

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