

Karakter x Cassina

Peacock Chair: an icon by Verner Panton
for the centenary of his birth

Verner Panton's debut in the Karakter x Cassina collection

Visionary, multifaceted and forward-thinking. In the centenary year of the birth of Verner Panton, the Danish designer and architect who originated an aesthetic revolution that disrupted the conventions of Scandinavian design, Cassina pays tribute to his design legacy with the reissue of the *Peacock Chair*.

In close collaboration with Verner Panton Design AG, this iconic piece has been brought up to date retaining the model's original design, experimental energy and expressive power while simultaneously highlighting its radical and contemporary appeal.

The genesis: a turning point

Among the first projects by Verner Panton, the *Peacock Chair* was born in 1959 as part of the *Wire* series, the celebrated furniture collection made of steel wire that marked a definitive break with the Scandinavian tradition of wooden furniture. In an era when most Danish designers favoured natural woods, Panton chose metal here. Attracted by its lightness and transparency, as well as its ability to reflect surrounding colours, his intent was to **create furniture that seemed sketched in space**.

The avant-garde nature of the *Peacock Chair* is built upon three key principles: **transparency**, where the metal mesh allows light and air to filter through, transforming the seat into an almost ethereal object; **industrial production**, as the object marks the transition from traditional craftsmanship to the precision of serial metalworking; and **pop colours** for the vibrant cushion hues that burst forth from the metal structure.

A tribute to Panton's creative genius

A fluid work with unpredictable forms and a **statement-aesthetic**, the *Peacock Chair* recalls the fanning of a peacock's tail, evoking its multifaceted beauty, which is also reflected in the model's name.

Within a **kaleidoscopic synaesthesia**, visual comfort triumphs in a frame of shapes and colours: on top of the framework—a sophisticated intersection of steel geometries—the seat opens like a hemispherical niche, cradling the upholstery. Conceived as a dynamic system, it consists of seven round cushions; the central one is fixed to the structure and the other six are free to be arranged, designed to create a different, intimate and immersive configuration each time.

Playful and versatile, the swivel truncated-cone base allows the seat height to be adjusted, while the seat itself can take on two inclinations thanks to specific fittings, to suit different ways of experiencing the object. This ranges from a classic armchair to a rocking chair when the base is removed. The *Peacock Chair*'s multi-

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functionality was typical of Panton's work, and it later became one of his trademarks. As a child, Carin Panton, the architect and designer's daughter, loved to play on the chair without its base, rocking and twirling as well as curling up in the nest-like seat with a book.

In this celebratory year, Cassina has chosen to honour the author's creative genius by recovering the project's original complexity. While in the 1960s the chair was produced in a limited series in a simplified version with a reduced wire structure, today's reissue restores its formal integrity, faithfully following the original drawings, converting Verner Panton's avant-garde vision into a unique architectural object.

The stainless-steel structure is electro-welded through a highly virtuous process that renders the joints invisible, before being electro-polished, amplifying the dialogue between light and surface to **create a continuous play of reflections with the colours of the cushions and the chairs surroundings.**



Peacock Chair by Verner Panton – Karakter x Cassina

Measurements: 105x102xh.60/46 cm

Materials: structure in electro-welded and electro-polished stainless steel;
cushions in polyurethane foam and recycled polyester wadding;
removable fabric upholstery.