

Home Stories



vitra.

Charles and Ray Eames are counted among the most important figures of twentieth-century design. Their work spans the fields of furniture design, filmmaking, photography and exhibition design. Vitra is the sole authorised manufacturer of Eames products for Europe and the Middle East. When you own an Eames product made by Vitra, you know it is an original.



This season we invite you to explore the world of Charles and Ray Eames, the leading couple of twentieth-century design. Follow us into their archives and rediscover the stories behind some of their best-known furniture designs. A selection of contemporary pieces offers added inspiration, and you can find a wide choice of gifts in the Vitra Accessories Collection.

The Vitra Design Museum owns the most extensive archive of Eames designs. The story started in the mid-1950s, when Vitra-founder Willi Fehlbaum discovered an Eames chair in a New York window display. His decision to introduce the design to Europe marked the beginning of Vitra as a furniture manufacturing company.

Over their joint career Charles and Ray Eames amassed a unique archive of prototypes and exper-

imental pieces and in 1989 this collection became part of the newly founded Vitra Design Museum. To this day, Vitra continues to study and analyse this material for the development and production of its Eames pieces — classics can be passed on from generation to generation.

An icon as a gift. Purchase six Eames Shell Chairs and receive one LAR as a gift.

Purchase six Eames Fiberglass Side Chairs or Eames Plastic Side or Armchairs (in any combination) for your dining room between 1 November 2019 and 31 January 2020 and receive one Eames Plastic Armchair LAR as a free gift (un-upholstered in any colour).



(1) Eames Segmented Tables Dining 2200 x 1100 mm · 70 solid natural oak, oiled · Charles & Ray Eames, 1964 (2/5) Eames Plastic Armchair DAX · 43 rusty orange / 48 forest · Charles & Ray Eames, 1950 (3/6/7) Eames Fiberglass Side Chair DSX · 06 Eames Raw Umber / 08 Eames Ochre Dark / 07 Eames Ochre Light · Charles & Ray Eames, 1950 (4) Eames Plastic Side Chair DSX · 26 sunlight · Charles & Ray Eames, 1950 (8) Eames Plastic Armchair LAR · 04 white · Charles & Ray Eames, 1950 (9) Lampe de Bureau · 06 Japanese red powder-coated (smooth) · Jean Prouvé, 1930 (10) Potence · 12 deep black powder-coated (smooth) · Jean Prouvé, 1950



Charles and Ray Eames sitting on Eames Fiberglass Chairs, 1960

A chair makes design history.

The Shell Chair was first presented in 1948 at a competition organised by New York's Museum of Modern Art. Eventually marketed as the first mass-produced plastic chair, it established an entirely new typology in seating. The Shell Chair evolved into a furniture family that includes armchairs and rockers, some with padded seats and others fully upholstered.

Charles and Ray used the LAR (Lounge Height Armchair Rod Base) in their private home, the Eames

House in Pacific Palisades, California. This versatile and compact chair proved ideal for reading, talking to guests, or simply relaxing, both indoors and outdoors.

Vitra is proud to reintroduce the LAR. To ensure that the new edition precisely matches the comfort, ease and elegance of the early model, we studied the pieces in the Vitra Design Museum and closely cooperated with Eames Demetrios, Charles Eames's grandson and current director of the Eames Office.



(1) Eames Plastic Armchair LAR · full upholstery · Hopsak, 88 cognac/ivory · Charles & Ray Eames, 1950



From the Vitra Design
Museum: A stack of historical
Eames Fiberglass Chairs DSS.



(1) Eames Fiberglass Side Chair DSX - 03 Eames Red Orange - Charles & Ray Eames, 1950
(2) Eames Fiberglass Side Chair DSX - 08 Eames Ochre Dark - Charles & Ray Eames, 1950



Scene at the MoMA exhibition 'Organic Design in Home Furnishings', 1941

The Organic Chair: an icon of modern American design.

This compact and comfortable reading chair was designed by Eero Saarinen and Charles Eames for a design competition at MoMA in 1940. Its graceful curves became the starting point for several of Charles and Ray Eames' furniture designs over the ensuing years. Vitra currently produces the Organic Chair in three different versions: a reading chair with a medium-high

backrest (Organic Chair); a high-backed model (Organic Highback), and one designed for dining tables or meeting rooms (Organic Conference). This winter it is available as a limited edition in Sheepskin.

(1) Organic Chair - Sheepskin, 01 moonlight - Charles Eames & Eero Saarinen, 1940 (2) Stools, Model B - Charles & Ray Eames, 1960 (3) Lampe de Bureau - 06 Japanese red powder-coated (smooth) - Jean Prouvé, 1930 (4) Eames House Bird - walnut



(1) Suita Sofa 3-Seater, pointed cushions · Corsaro, 05 stone melange · Antonio Citterio, 2010/2019 (2) Suita Chaise Longue, pointed cushions · Corsaro, 05 stone melange · Antonio Citterio, 2010/2019 (3) Grand Relax · Leather Premium, 97 cognac · Antonio Citterio, 2019 (4) Eames Coffee Table 1140 x 760 mm · Marble, 68 black ash · Charles & Ray Eames, 1953 (5) Plate Table 410 x 410 mm · 70 solid natural oak, oiled, 40 chocolate powder-coated (textured) · Jasper Morrison, 2004 (6) Nelson Bench · H 353 x W 1837 x D 469 mm · 64 Ash natural · George Nelson, 1946 (7) Stools, Model B · Charles & Ray Eames, 1960 (8) Eames House Bird · walnut

‘Why don’t we make an updated version of the old English club chair?’



Eames Lounge Chair and Ottoman, 1956

This question initiated the development of a generously proportioned chair that combined ultimate comfort with the highest quality materials and craftsmanship: the Eames Lounge Chair.

The Vitra and Eames collaboration started in the 1950s and, soon after, Vitra began producing the

Lounge Chair. Still made today using production methods that are virtually unchanged, the chair has become one of the most desired items of mid-century furniture.

From the archive of the Vitra Design Museum: a historical example of the Eames Lounge Chair, produced by Vitra in the late 1950s.



Purchase an Eames Lounge Chair and receive a wood veneer upgrade.

Purchase an Eames Lounge Chair (with or without Ottoman) between 1 November 2019 and 31 January 2020, and the price will be reduced to the next lowest category of wood veneer. This offer does not apply to purchases of the least expensive type of wood veneer.



(1) Lounge Chair & Ottoman - santos palisander - 66 nero - Charles & Ray Eames, 1956
(2) Occasional Table LTR - 75 solid American walnut, oiled - Charles & Ray Eames, 1950

Purchase a Repos or Grand Repos, the contemporary lounge chair by Antonio Citterio, and receive a fabric or leather upgrade.

Purchase a Repos or Grand Repos (with or without Ottoman/Panchina) between 1 November 2019 and 31 January 2020 and the price will be reduced to the next lowest category of cover materials in fabric or leather. This offer does not apply to purchases of leather or fabric covers in the least expensive category.



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Grand Relax. The new lounge chair by Antonio Citterio.



(1) Grand Relax & Ottoman - Leather Premium, 97 cognac - Antonio Citterio, 2019 (2) Suita Daybed - Dumet, 03 beige/grey - Antonio Citterio, 2010
(3) Plate Table 410 x 410 mm - Marble - Jasper Morrison, 2004 (4) Eames House Bird - walnut

Accessories Collection.



(1) Eames House Bird - walnut (2) Silhouette Bull - Alexander Girard, 1965 (3) Wall Clocks - Sunburst Clock - George Nelson, 1948-1960
 (4) Resting Bird - Front, 2018 (5) Wooden Dolls Mother Fish & Child - Alexander Girard, 1952 (6) Desk Clocks - Night Clock - George Nelson, 1947/1953 (7) Desk Clocks - Chronopak - George Nelson, 1947/1953 (8) Desk Clock - Cone Base Clock - George Nelson, 1947/1953 (9) Desk Clocks - Cone Clock - George Nelson, 1947/1953 (10) Lampe de Bureau - Jean Prouvé, 1930
 (11) Wooden Doll No. 7 - Alexander Girard, 1952 (12) Wooden Doll No. 1 - Alexander Girard, 1952 (13) Wooden Doll No. 4 - Alexander Girard, 1952
 (14) Nuage (céramique) - Ronan & Erwan Bouroullec, 2018 (15) Resting Cat - Front, 2018 (16) Herringbone Pillows - Raw-Edges, 2019
 (17) Stools, Model B - Charles & Ray Eames, 1960 (18) Resting Bear - Front, 2018



These offers are valid through participating dealers only.
They can be found at www.vitra.com/find-vitra
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VINT / EN 2019, Art. Nr. 09186904