

Atlas of Furniture Design

Vitra Design Museum previews definitive, encyclopedic publication

In 2019 Vitra Design Museum will publish the »Atlas of Furniture Design«, a new comprehensive overview on the history of modern furniture design. With more than 1,000 pages, the »Atlas« will be the most extensive book ever to be published on the topic. It documents 1,740 objects by over 540 designers, and features more than 2,800 illustrations, from object photographs to design sketches and interiors as well as patents, brochures, art, architecture, and portraits of the designers.

The Vitra Design Museum collection, which counts among the world's largest of its kind with upwards of 7,000 objects, serves as the basis for »Atlas of Furniture Design«. The publication includes works by the most significant designers of the past 230 years and documents all important stages of design history. This includes 19th century furniture made out of bentwood and metal, Art Nouveau and Secession style designs, iconic designs by protagonists of modernism such as Le Corbusier, Gerrit Rietveld, Marcel Breuer, and Eileen Gray, but also post-war, post-modern, and contemporary furniture by designers such as Charles and Ray Eames, Eero Saarinen, Finn Juhl, Hans J. Wegner, Ettore Sottsass, Philippe Starck, Hella Jongerius, Jasper Morrison, and Konstantin Grcic.

Mateo Kries, co-director of Vitra Design Museum and editor of the publication: »The Atlas is the product of over 20 years of research at Vitra Design Museum. It paints a portrait of our entire collection while simultaneously providing an unprecedented overview of the history of modern furniture. The publication is set up to provide a new comprehensive outline for scholars of furniture design by considering the latest academic research, questioning extant knowledge, and giving top experts a platform to share their ideas. The book touches on a range of subjects spanning the beginnings of industrialization to digitalization, which is becoming increasingly influential in contemporary furniture design.«

The »Atlas of Furniture Design« was compiled over several years by a team of more than 70 authors. It contains comprehensive essays on the socio-cultural and design-historical contexts of furniture design, over 550 detailed texts on pioneering objects, and numerous information graphics that provide new visual insights into the history of furniture design. Furthermore, the book contains a complete appendix that includes designer biographies, bibliographies, a producers and materials glossary, as well as a keyword index. These features make this publication an encyclopedic reference guide and indispensable resource for collectors, scholars, and experts, and without a doubt a book to be treasured by design lovers all over the world.

Fact Sheet

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