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# One collection on the collection of the collecti

Onecollection A/S has the sole rights worldwide to produce and market the furniture of the architect Finn Juhl (1912-1989).

In 2001 the rights were handed over personally by Finn Juhl's widow, the music – and theatre publisher Hanne Wilhelm Hansen. After her death in 2003 the copyright belongs to the Wilhelm Hansen Foundation which Onecollection is working with.

Today Finn Juhl is considered the father of the concept "Danish Modern" or "Danish Design".

We are very honoured working with the furniture art of Finn Juhl. He played an important role in the time of unrest and upheaval within the development of Danish furniture design and put Denmark on the map of international design through his work.

This gives us a certain obligation towards gathering and re-communicating knowledge of Finn Juhl and his work.

With the history we should like to invite you into the universe of Finn Juhl, where his passion for the art got a significant impact on his work as a furniture architect.

# The 5 categories

Finn Juhl – education, working and life

The furniture sculptor reflects on the art of his time

Finn Juhl's furniture design – a cabinetmaker's challenge

Completeness in the interior

Finn Juhl – international reputation

#### Timeline

Prizes

Decoration

Furniture

Exhibition

Finn Juhl

# How to get the best out of the story

The story is divided into 5 categories.

This categorisation is chosen in order to create a complete impression of Finn Juhl by presenting different facets of Finn Juhl as a person and as an architect.

The categorisation is made visible via different colours of the categories.



Prizes

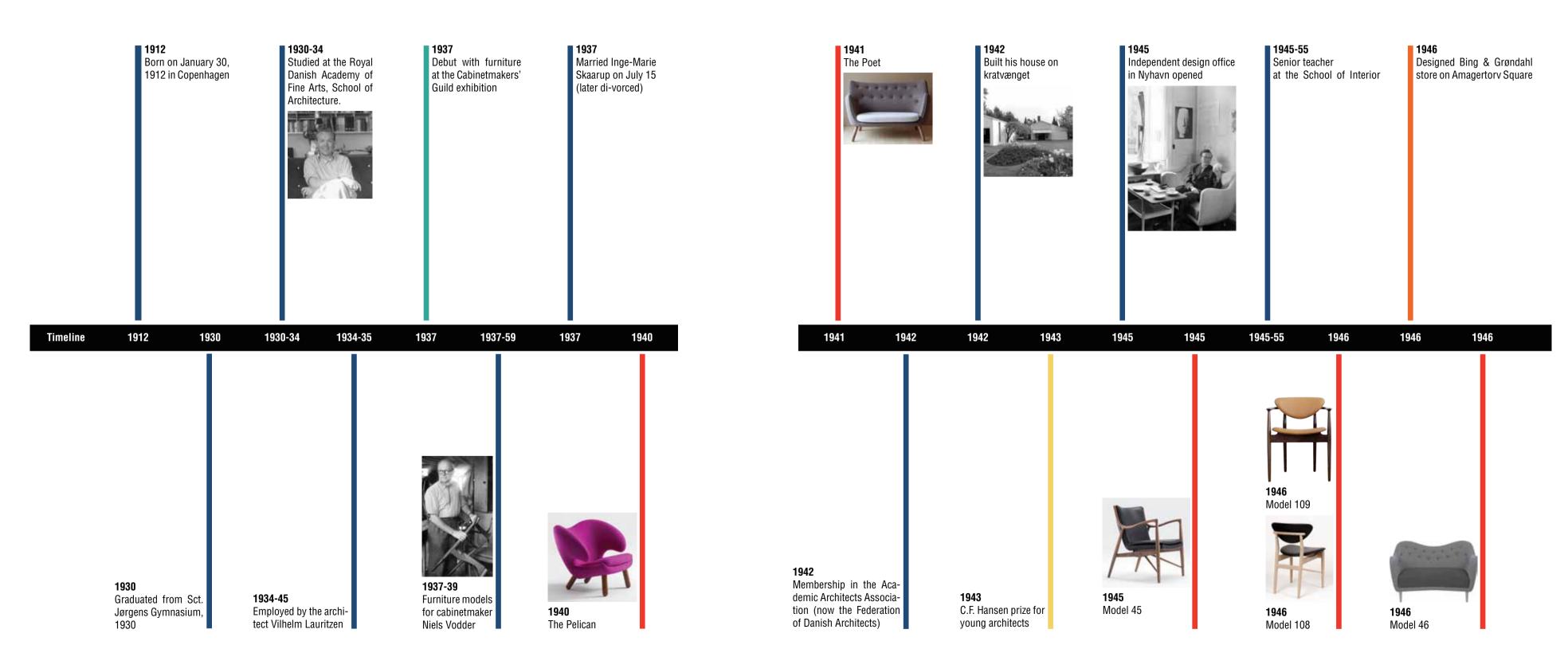
Decoration

Furniture

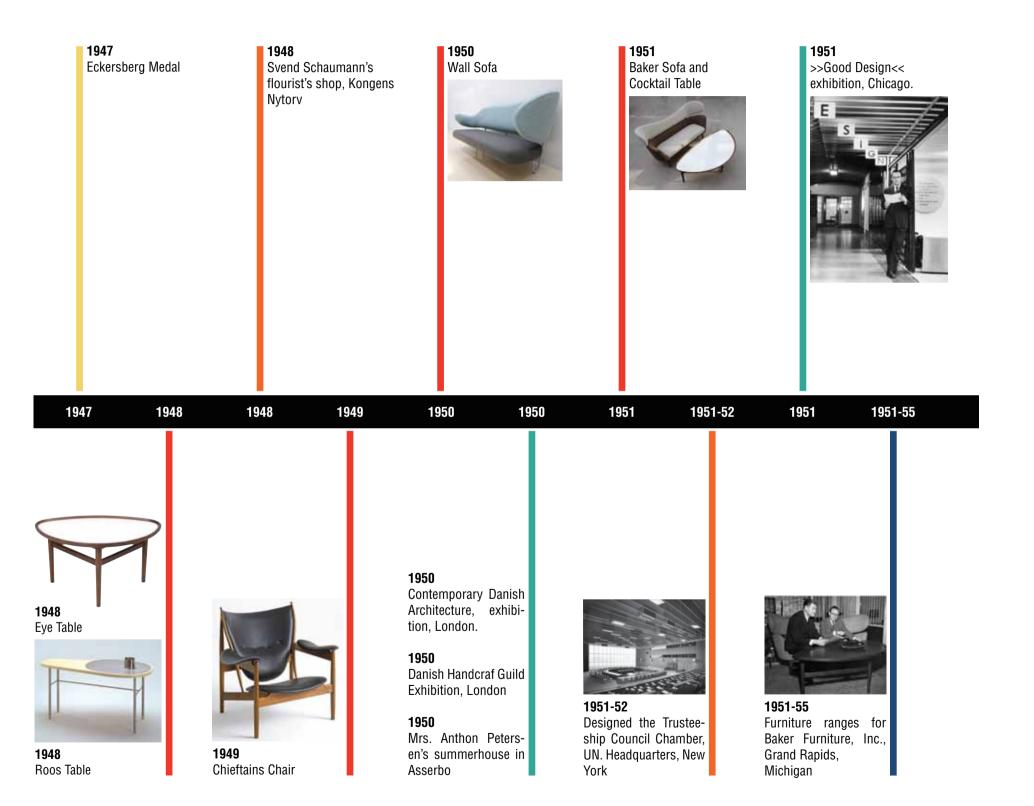
Exhibition

Finn Juhl

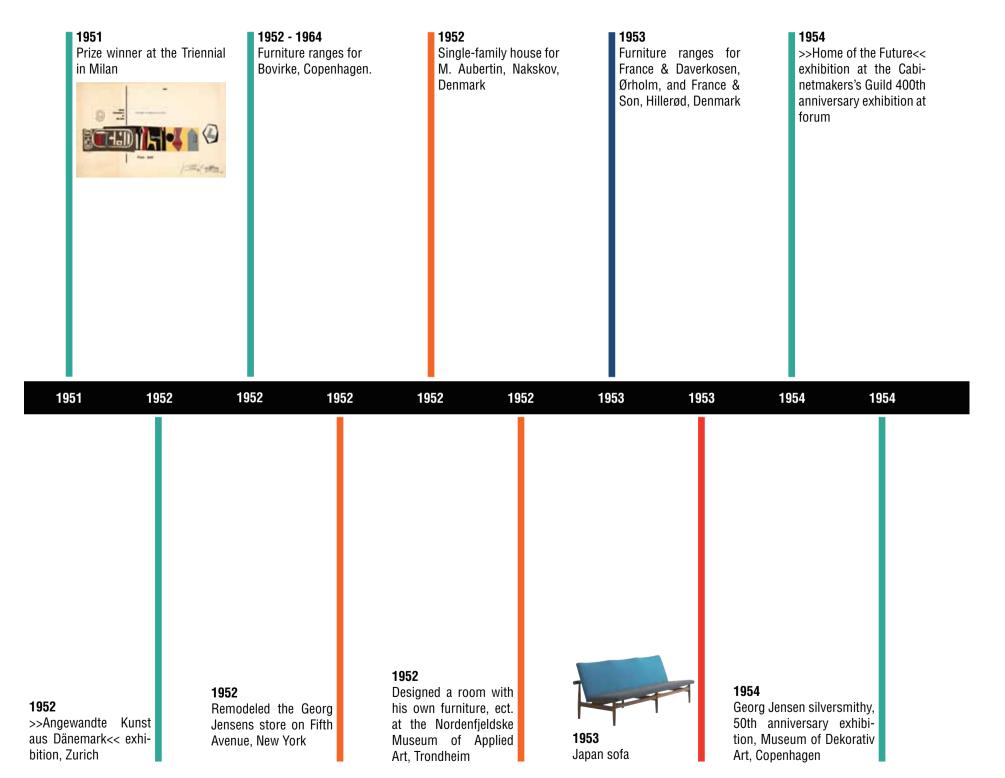




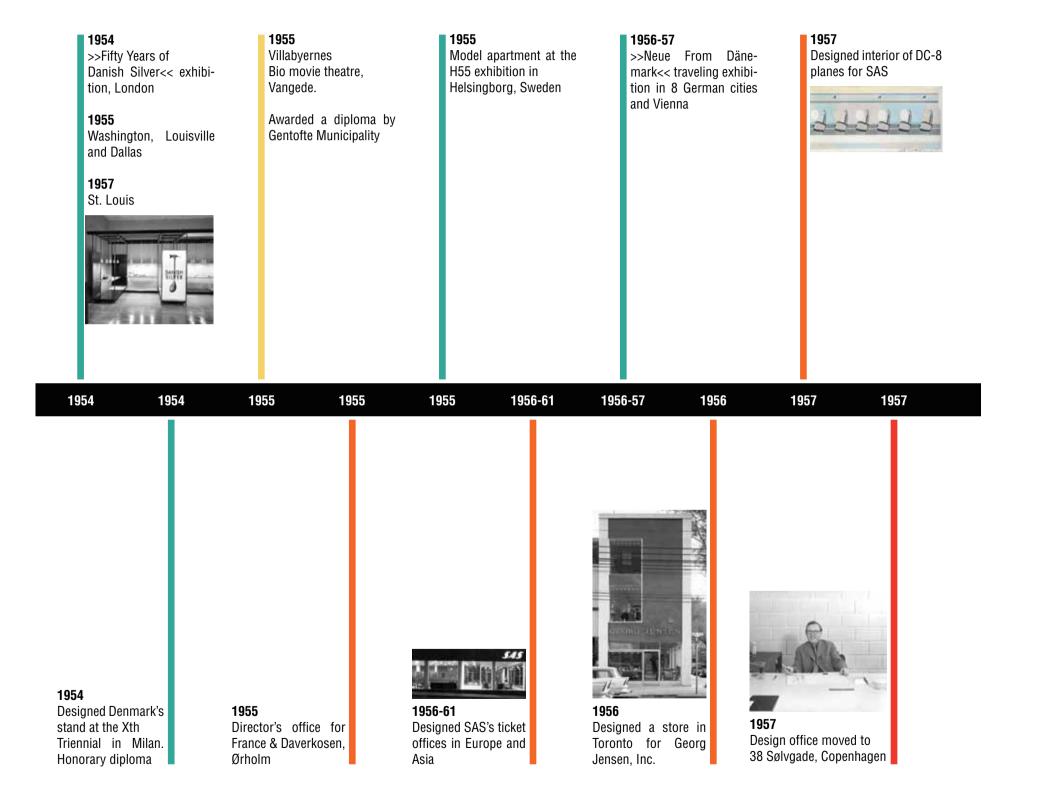




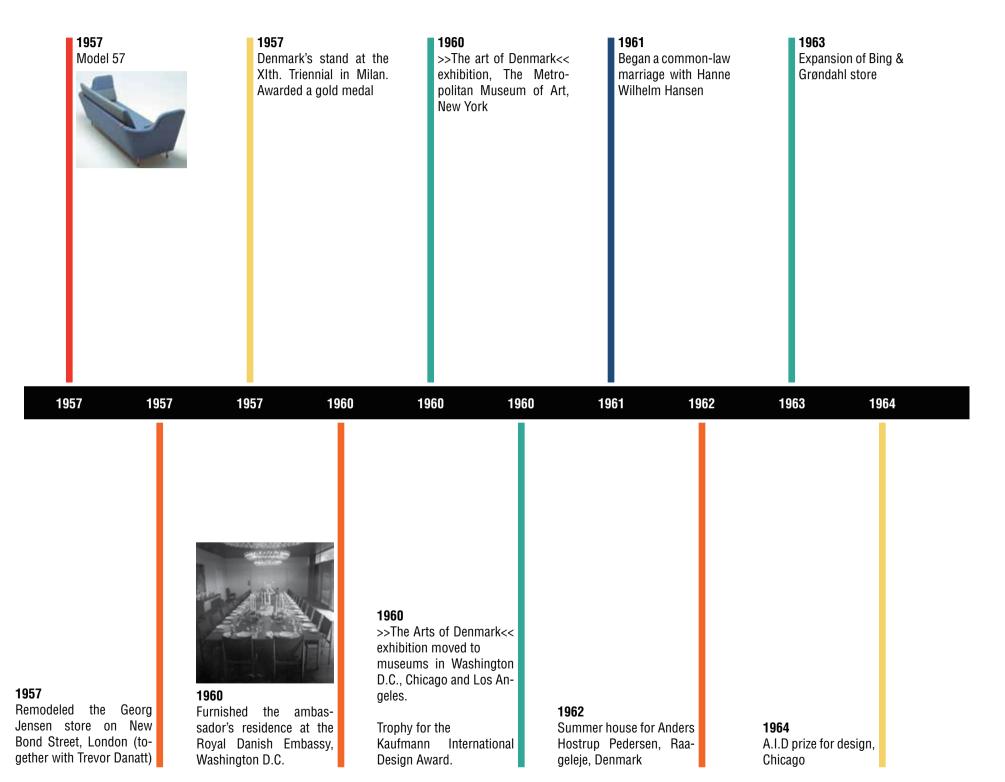




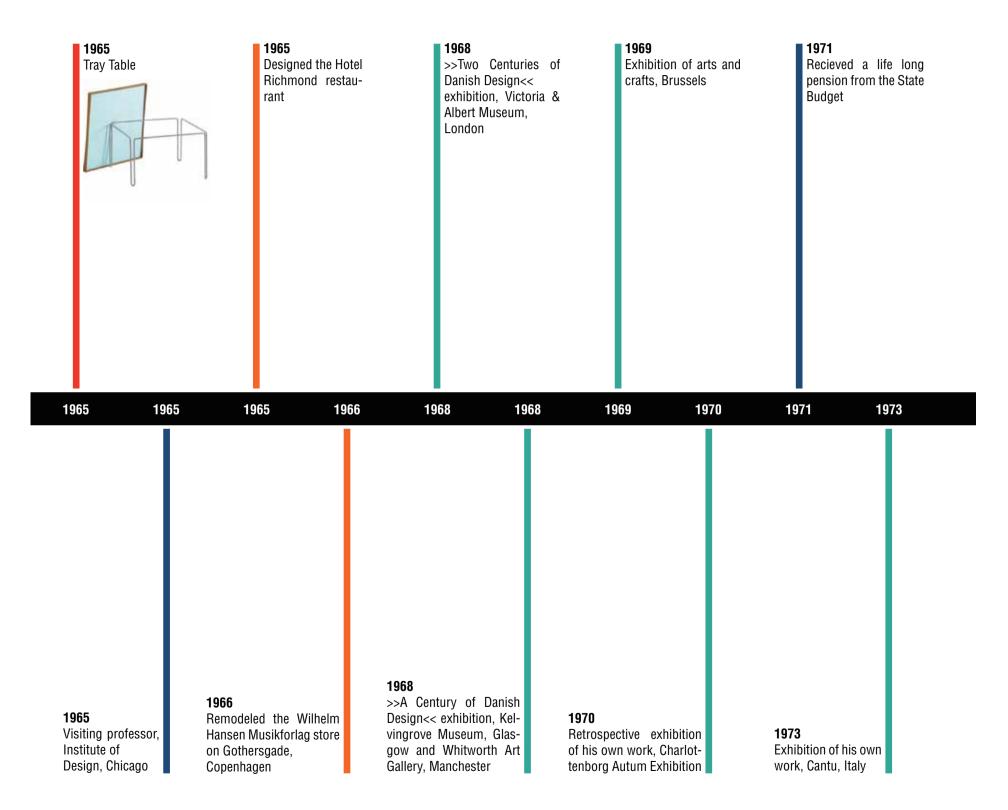




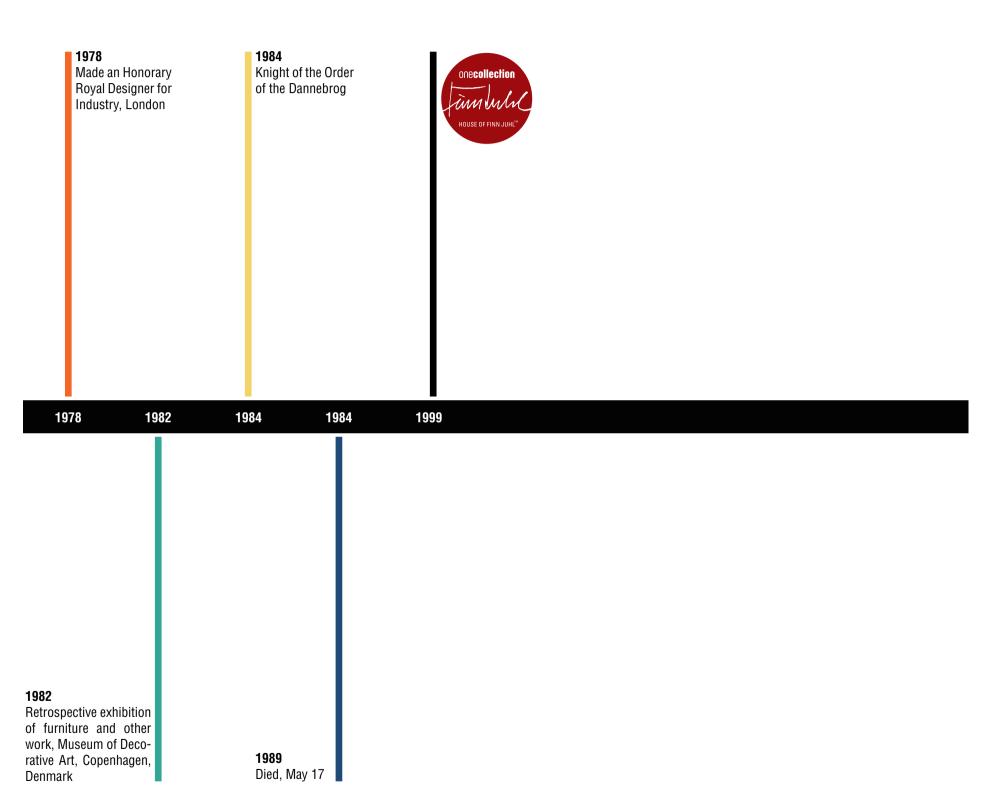










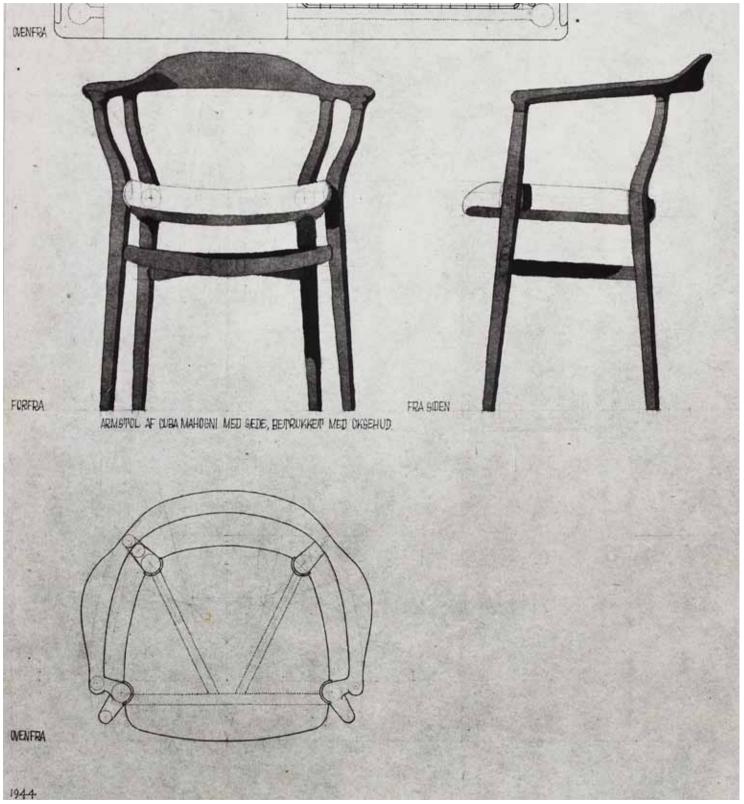




1912-1989

Finn Juhl - education, working and life





44 chair, 1944





Finn Juhl in 1934

# Finn Juhl – education, working and life

Initially, Finn Juhl wanted to become an art historian. Since his early years, he had been very interested in fine arts. However, his father wouldn't allow a career in the arts. He therefore trained as an architect. Later, when he had made himself a name as a furniture designer, he would always speak of himself as being a self-taught. Finn Juhl began his studies in the 1930s, which was an important period in furniture design, when modern design started to emerge.

## Vilhelm Lauritzen's architect practise

While he was still a student, Finn Juhl started working with the prominent Danish architect Vilhelm Lauritzen in 1934. At his practise, he worked on major projects such as the Danish Broadcasting House and Copenhagen Airport. Finn Juhl was kept so busy, that he never finished his studies. Despite this, he received the honour of becoming a member of the Academic Architect Society in 1942, and later in life, he became a visiting professor at the Institute of Design in Chicago.

In 1945, Finn Juhl left Vilhelm Lauritzen's practise to start his own.













The drawing office in Sølvgade 1957







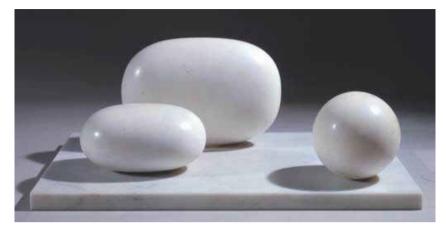


1912-1989

The furniture sculptor reflects on the art of his time







Barbara Hepworth



Jean Arp

"I have always dreamt of becoming an artist, and I have always pursued that dream. But I've had to realize, that I wouldn't make it as a painter, a sculptor or a musician. I have tried, but only in private."

Finn Juhl said in 1982



#### The furniture sculptor reflects on the art of his time

Art dictated Finn Juhl's designs. He also used his artistic sensibilities to use his design as a reflection on his own times. It was Finn Juhl's ambition to create furniture with a personality that reflected both functionality and aesthetics.

It was the human freedom as reflected in surrealism and cubism that inspired Finn Juhl. Particularly Jean Arp's portrayal of the human torso and Barbara Hepworth's modernist sculptures.





Cabinetmakers' Guild exhibition 1940



The Pelican today



Cabinetmakers' Guild exhibition 1941

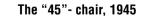
It has been said about Finn Juhl, that he thought a piece of furniture should be seen as an individual piece of art and not just as part of the overall interior design. Furniture should reflect the personality and originality of the artist, and at the same time be a practical piece of functional art – rather than a sculpture.

Rather than thinking in terms of practical construction, Finn Juhl had the mindset of a sculptor, when he shaped a piece of furniture. In the 1940s and 1950s, this way of working had never been seen before. His ambition was to design furniture with movement and life.

Finn Juhl was very true to himself. This was a strong part of his character. Despite the leading opinion that functionality was more important than form and shape, Finn Juhl was always inspired by what was closest to his heart: the arts. Therefore, the idiom of Finn Juhl's furniture was at odds with the furniture tradition of his time.







In creating his furniture, Finn Juhl worked with two elements: The Carrying Element, and The Carried Element. This is one of many examples of how he broke free from conventional working methods and found his inspiration in art.

The "45"-chair has become the classic symbol of Juhl's design. Uncluttered, light and elegant, combined in lively motion, seemed to be the secret to his art. The air between the frame and the seat of the chair created a lightness that reflected beauty and floating grace. In this way, the chair created pleasure both when looking at it, as well as in its practical use.





"Art was always the main source of inspiration to him, and he was fascinated by shapes, which defied gravity and created a visual lightness."

"The 45-chair is the mother of all modern chairs"

Mr. Noritsugu Oda, Professor at Tokai University / Department of Art and Design

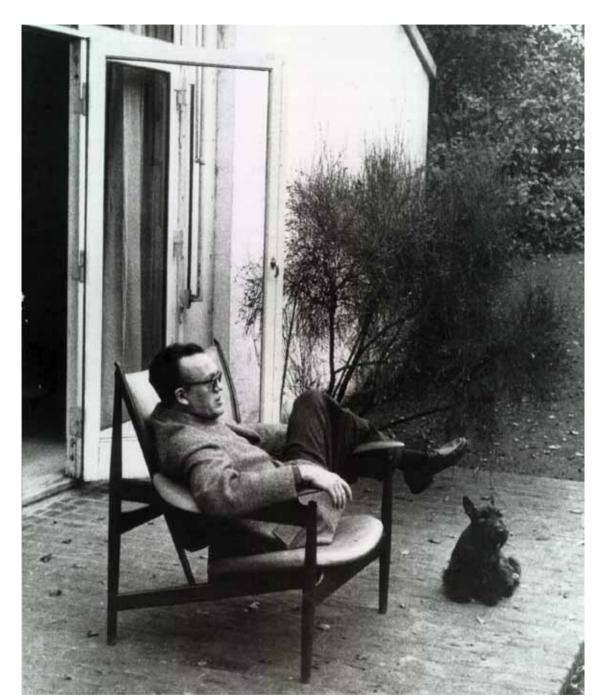




Water colour from 1945

The "45"- chair

In the 1940s, Finn Juhl created the type of chair, which later has been seen as his prototype. Finn Juhl later distilled the essence of this chair in many variations.



Finn Juhl in the Chieftain Chair



"Presumably, the creative capabilities of a craftsman are the same as those of a sculptor. A chair is not just an industrial product in space. It becomes form and space itself."

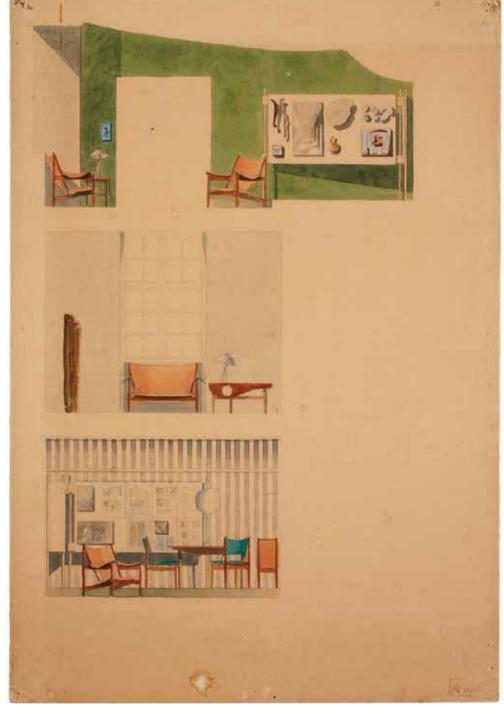
Finn Juhl, 1952

## The Chieftain Chair, 1949

Finn Juhl designed the Chieftain Chair in one single day. It is the result of his inspiration from different art forms and anthropology. This became a constant source of inspiration, which hugely influenced his intentions as a furniture designer.









The Chieftain Chair is a combination of symbols. The width of the armrest symbolises a saddle. The tall joists of the backrest, which end in a hook-like shape, symbolise bows, while the backrest itself symbolises a shield as well as a chieftain's headdress. The first version of the Chieftain Chair was produced in teak.







Chieftain Chair at Finn Juhl's home







Pelican chairs at Ordrupgaard Museum, Denmark

#### The Pelican Chair, 1940

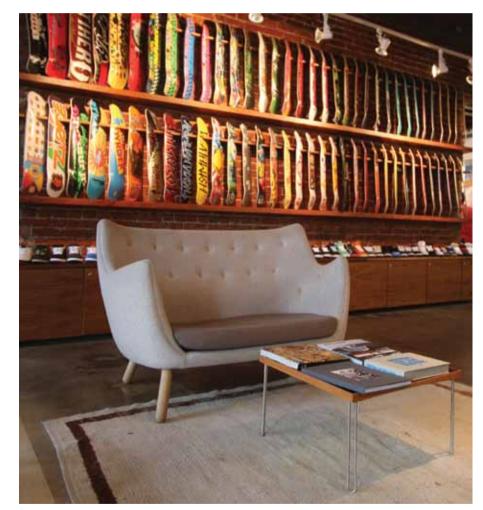
The Pelican Chair is clearly a result of Finn Juhl's inspiration from artistic interpretations of the human body – particularly in surrealism and cubism.

Thanks to its organic shape, the Pelican has almost got a human character and therefore become a body in itself. In the Pelican Chair, one human body can find shelter in another. Although initially dismissed as "walrus-like" by his contemporaries, this chair later became an iconic example of his design.





Exhibition at Gallery Asbæk, Denmark



Skateboard shop in Washington

It was obvious to Finn Juhl, that furniture needed an artistic sensibility, in order to be both exciting as well as at peace with the surroundings.

Finn Juhl also pointed out that furniture is a practical necessity, and therefore should not be created as visual objects but seen as -and used as - applied art, as he explained in 1965.



House of Finn Juhl in Berlin

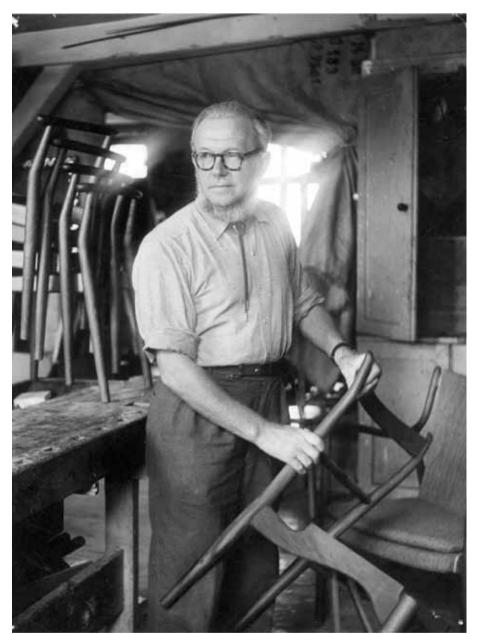
Finn Juhl was the modern furniture designer, who created artistic access to furniture design. This made him famous in Denmark and abroad.

After his death, he inspired new generations all over the world.



1912-1989

Finn Juhl's furniture design - a cabinetmaker's challenge



Cabinetmaker Niels Vodder

#### Finn Juhl's furniture design – a cabinetmaker's challenge

Because Finn Juhl was trained as an architect rather than a designer, his designs were a challenge to the cabinetmakers.

The starting point to the furniture designs we know today were the furniture Finn Juhl created for his own first home in 1933. This became the beginning of a partnership with cabinetmaker Niels Vodders.



Prizes from the Cabinetmakers' Guild



Cabinetmakers' Guild 1951

Finn Juhl's talent had been unearthed, and parallel to his work at Vilhelm Lauritzen's practice, Finn Juhl exhibited at the Cabinetmakers' Guild from 1937 till 1961.

This was the beginning of a remarkable partnership, which didn't go unnoticed, even in royal circles.

The partnership between Finn Juhl and Niels Vodder resulted in beautiful and exciting furniture which won design prizes and today are sought-after collectors' items in private homes as well as in museum collections such as the Museum of Modern Art (MOMA) in New York.







Baker showroom in 1952

Already in the 1930s, Finn Juhl started incorporating art in his exhibitions. In that way, his exhibitions reflected the artistic inspiration to his designs, as well as a mutual relationship with the contemporary art scene.





Baker Sofa today

The partnership between architects and cabinetmakers became one of the unique characteristics of the Danish Modern concept. In this context, the cooperation between Finn Juhl and Niels Vodder became a classic example of Danish Modern and had a huge impact on Danish furniture design, both then and now.







Queen Ingrid and Finn Juhl in 1961



King Frederik IX of Denmark

The Danish King and Queen were protectors of the prestigious Copenhagen Cabinet-makers' Guild annual exhibition at the Museum of Applied Art, where Finn Juhl's art-inspired furniture were the subject of much debate.

Finn Juhl's exhibitions received much attention in Denmark and gradually also from influential individuals abroad, such as the director of MoMa in New York.

It was Finn Juhl's ambition to be contemporary rather than traditional. In this way, he felt free to experiment with his designs. This philosophy resulted in the fact that his designs were much too complicated for the industrial manufacturers to produce at the time in the 1930s and 40s. It was therefore to Finn Juhl's advantage that Denmark had a strong tradition of crafted cabinetmakers.





Re-launched in 1999



Re-launched in 2001



Re-launched in 2009



Re-launched in 1999



Re-launched in 2000



Re-launched in 2001



Re-launched in 2007



Re-launched in 2005



Re-launched in 2007



Re-launched in 2005



Re-launched in 2007



Re-launched in 2000



Re-launched in 2003

The consequence of Finn Juhl's dilemma was, that many of his furniture were technically ahead of their time. Since he didn't want to change his designs, some of them were only produced in small numbers while others never saw the light of day.

"One shouldn't despair over the fact that some of the developments one has hoped for were never produced but only became a beginning.

Perhaps they will be revived some day in the future if necessary or reasonable, when the time is ripe."

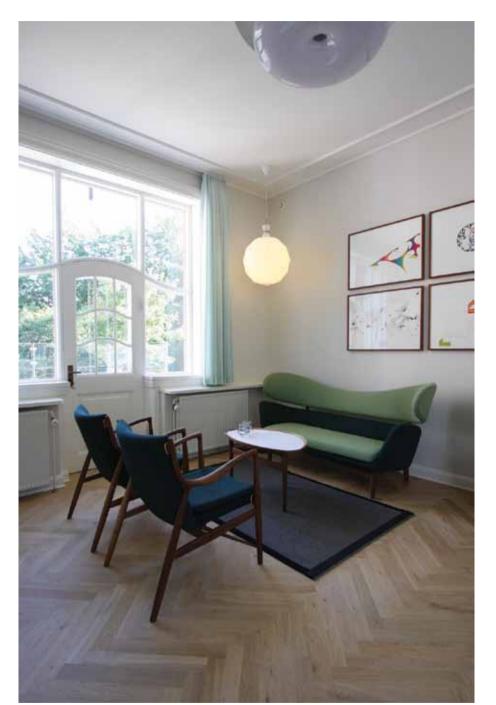
Finn Juhl

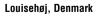
It is only recently, that production facilities have become so technically sophisticated, that they have been able to overcome the challenges of Juhl's complicated designs. Some of his iconic chairs, such as the Pelican Chair, have therefore only gone into production after Onecollection obtained the license to produce his furniture in 1999.

It was Finn Juhl's widow, Hanne Wilhelm Hansen, who personally handed over the world-wide exclusive rights to produce and sell his furniture to Onecollection. Finn Juhl bequeathed all his documents, including about 2000 drawings, to the Museum of Applied Art in Copenhagen. The license agreement also allows access to this material. This original material is the focal point of Onecollection's work with Finn Juhl's furniture design.

Thanks to progress in technical production methods and craftsmanship, Onecollection possesses all the qualities needed to fulfil Finn Juhl's wish of producing his furniture designs. Today, Onecollection has relaunched a collection of vintage Finn Juhl designs.









Onecollection's proud traditions of thorough craftsmanship have resulted in a line of Finn Juhl furniture of highest quality. In 2010, Onecollection won the prestigious Wallpaper Design Award for Finn Juhl's Baker Sofa in the category "Best re-launches".

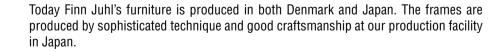


Wallpaper Prize winner 2010





Production of Finn Juhl furniture

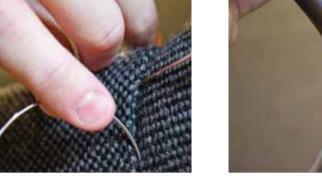


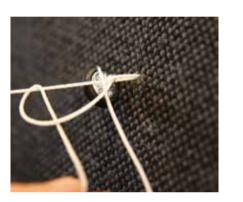
The chairs are subsequently manually upholstered in Denmark. The final finish, quality check and delivery takes place in Denmark.

Sophisticated technology, industrial production and traditional craftsmanship works hand in hand to achieve a quality, which has never been of a higher standard than today. This synergy is completely in line with Finn Juhl's original ideas.

Onecollection is planning more re-launches of Finn Juhl's designs, but there will also be new launches of some of his pieces, which have never been produced before. These designs will be produced from his original drawings.





















1912-1989

Completeness in the interior



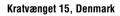












# Completeness in the interior

Finn Juhl built a house at no. 15 Kratvænget in Ordrup outside Copenhagen, together with his first wife, Inge-Marie Skaarup.

It was his ambition to create a home, where he had designed every single detail himself, and to create an overall, general look. He achieved this in 1942, when the building presented a gradual flow between different areas, rather than a collection of individual rooms.





Water colour of Kratvænget 15, Denmark









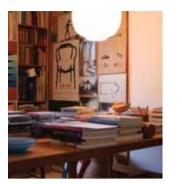
Kratvænget 15, Denmark

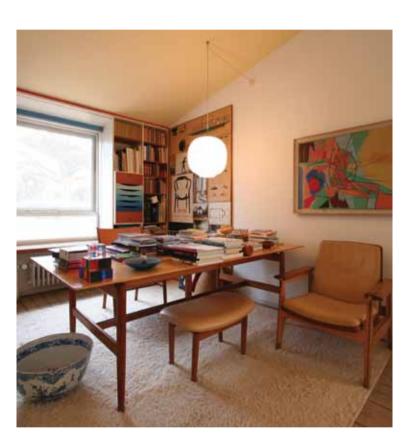
Art was Juhl's main source of inspiration and played a predominant role at his home. He was a keen collector of paintings as well as sculptures, carpets and vases. He admired artists such as Alvar Aalto, Sonja Ferlov Mancoba, Asger Jorn, Vilhelm Lundstrøm and Erik Thommesen.

Kratvænget became Finn Juhl's design lab. Only if the furniture worked in his own home, would they be launched at a larger scale.









"Furniture and houses are of course always designed in a context. I have rarely built a house where I didn't also design the furniture. It is of course fundamental that the furniture is practical. Chairs are not designed to look at but to sit on, but of course it makes you happy, if they are also worth looking at".

Kratvænget 15, Denmark

Finn Juhl, 1982









Kratvænget 15, Denmark

In Juhl's view, furniture should not have a front and a back. One should be able to view his pieces of furniture from all angles, since they are the focal point of the room, and he primarily placed furniture away from the walls.

Kratvænget 15 is today seen as a treasure trove from a significant époque in Danish design history. The house is now a museum and provides an opportunity for the public to feel and sense the design ideas, which became known as Scandinavian Modern.





Finn Juhl's "from the inside and out"-philosophy is today used as a model for user-driven innovation in modern industrial design.

Finn Juhl worked with a theory which he called "from the inside and out" His idea was that furniture created the room, and the room created the facade. This theory dictated his furniture design as well as his interior undertakings.



Finn Juhl - international reputation





Kaufmann Jr. and Finn Juhl in 1982

## Finn Juhl – international reputation

Finn Juhl was the first Danish designer to be successful at home and abroad at the same time. His international career took off during an exhibition in Copenhagen in 1948, when the then director of the MOMA in New York Edgar Kaufmann Jr. showed huge interest for Juhl's furniture. He was hugely impressed by the modern, Danish design, which was unique in the world at that time.

This first meeting resulted in a lifelong friendship between Juhl and Kaufmann.

Their friendship lead to several international articles about Finn Juhl's design, and an increasing interest for his work in the USA.

"a rare, masterly furniture designer, whose talent lies in combining comfort, construction and style in his design"

Kaufmann in Interiors Magazine, New York, 1948.





"His forms are masterful, now as when they were new. They are capable of a plenitude of embodiments still unexploed. Juhl is no performer, he is a creator. We need more of him."

Sign. Edgar Kaufmann Jr."





Baker Sofa and Cocktail table

## Finn Juhl and Baker

Subsequently, Finn Juhl was contacted by the furniture manufacturer Hollis M. Baker from Michigan in 1950. He wanted to introduce a line of modern furniture in his collection and commissioned Finn Juhl to design it. This resulted in the now famous Baker Sofa and the Cocktail table.

The year after, this collection was introduced in a special, Juhl-designed showroom.



Baker Furniture inc. showroom 1952



Baker Furniture inc. showroom 1952



Finn Juhl and Hollis M. Baker





"Finn Juhl is the father of Danish Design"



Wall Sofa, today

# The Father of Danish Design

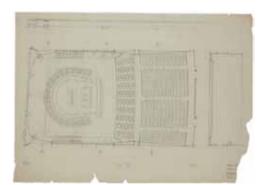
Finn Juhl had a formidable ability and unique talent for combining furniture, space and the artistic currents of that age, in his exhibitions and interior projects.

For two decades, Juhl became Denmark's international design ambassador and synonym with the promotion of Danish Design.





The Trusteeship Council Chamber in UN, New York



Original drawings of the Trusteeship Council Camber



#### **UN New York**

At the age of only 38, Finn Juhl was commissioned to design the interiors of the Trusteeship Council Chamber in the United Nations' headquarters in New York. He designed the room according to his great passion of combining space and inventory and thereby creating an overall harmonious impression, a so-called Gesamtkunstwerk.

He designed light boxes for the ceiling and wooden curtains for the wall panels, carpets, chairs, lamps and light fittings.



Finn Juhl in 1954, UN

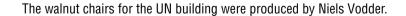
"People have been so kind as to tell me, that the chamber I have designed, is the most friendly and comfortable of all the chambers in that big rectangle of a house."

Finn Juhl





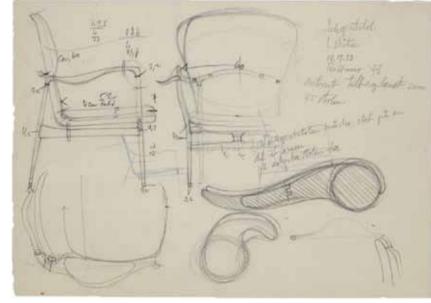
Finn Juhl and Hollis M. Baker



The Chamber was inaugurated on February 27th 1952. Finn Juhl received brilliant reviews for his work, and this led to his international breakthrough.

Today, a re-launch of Finn Juhl's design at the UN is being planned in New York. This is a strong indication that Finn Juhl's design both historically and currently has become iconic for modern design.





Original drawings of the UN chair









Georg Jensen Toronto, Canada

# **Georg Jensen**

I 1952, Juhl was commissioned to modernise the exclusive silversmith Georg Jensen's showroom on Fifth Avenue in New York. The Georg Jensen shop thereby became the first to showcase Finn Juhl's furniture in the USA. In 1957 he designed the Georg Jensen showrooms on Bond Street in London as well as in Toronto, Canada.







"The Danes have made the words "Danish modern" synonymous with tasteful contemporary style – and the chancery is no exception to their rule of giving beauty with the sparse line."

May 31, 1964 Danish modern

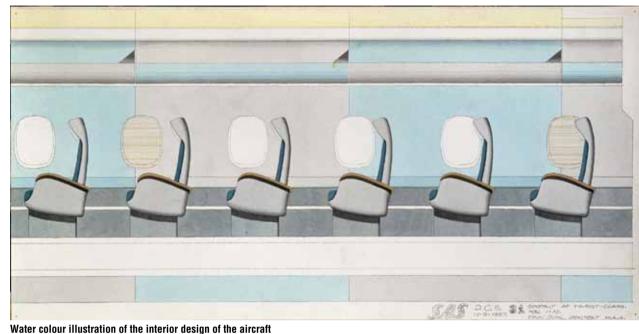
# The Danish embassy in Washington

The Danish embassy in Washington was inaugurated in 1960. Finn Juhl was responsible for the interior design of the embassy, where he used almost exclusively furniture of his own design.

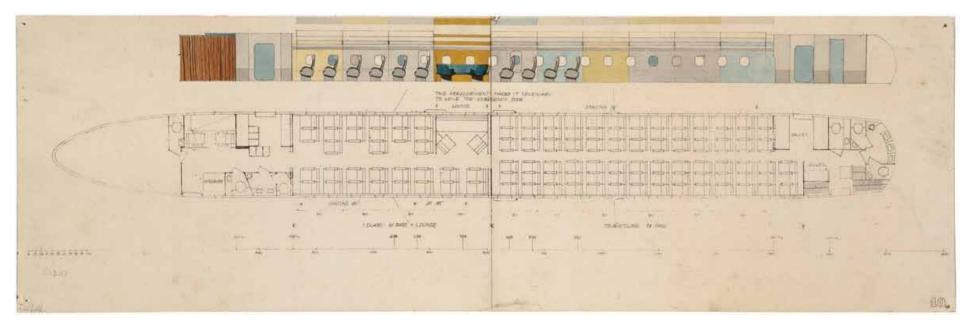








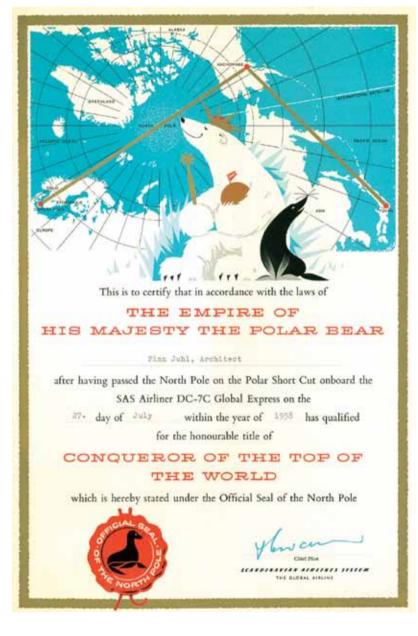




### SAS

In 1956, Scandinavian Airlines commissioned Juhl to design 33 of their terminals and ticket offices in Europe and Asia. This was yet another indication of Finn Juhl's growing international reputation.







"SAS's main ambition is to create a specific look in order to make SAS's offices recognisable all over the world. But of course, there are many considerations to be taken into account. Of course an office in Bagdhad will look different from one in Malmo or Gothenburg. We are currently also working on suggestions to the interiors of the seven aircrafts SAS has ordered from the Douglas factories in California."





SAS in Gothenburg

Finn Juhl





Finn Juhl in Chicago

In 1951, Finn Juhl was the exhibition designer of the Good Design-exhibition in Chicago, where he also exhibited some of his own designs from the Baker collection. He inherited this job from Charles Eames, one of the USA's most famous designers of all times. The exhibition was subsequently shown at MOMA in New York.

Finn Juhl produced more than 60 exhibitions in Denmark, the USA, Britain, Germany, Austria and Italy throughout his lifetime.



#### **Letter form Carles Eames**





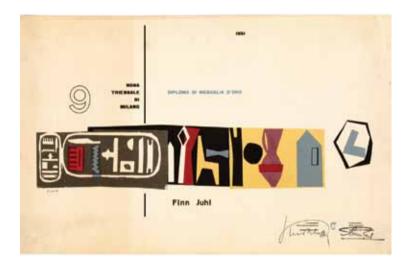


AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF INTERIOR DESIGNERS THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

Finn Juhl

WAS ILECTED DESIGN ASSOCIATE

ON THE Sixth DAY OF January 1963







#### **Awards**

1943 C. F. Hansen prize for young architects

1947 Eckersberg Medal, Denmark

1954 Honorary Diploma, Xth Triennalen, Milan, Italy

1957 3 gold medals at the XIth Triennale, Milan, Italy

1960 Kaufmann International Design Award

1964 A.I.D. prize for design, Chicago

1978 Honorary Royal Designer for Industry, London

1984 Knight of the Order of Dannebrog, Copenhagen

2010 Wallpaper Design award went to the Baker sofa in the category of

"Best re-launches" made by Onecollection





#### Finn Juhl - Curriculum vitae

- Born on January 30, 1912 in Copenhagen, Denmark.
- Graduated from Sct. Jørgens Gymnasium, 1930.
- Studied at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, School of Architecture, 1930-34.
- Employed by the architect Vilhelm Lauritzen, 1934-45.
- Debut with furniture at the Cabinetmakers' Guild exhibitions. 1937.
- Furniture models for cabinetmaker Niels Vodder, 1937-59.
- Married Inge-Marie Skaarups on July 15, 1937 (later di-vorced).
- Membership in the Academic Architects Association (now the Federation of Danish Architects).
- Built his house on Kratvænget, 1942.
- C. F. Hansen prize for young architects, 1943.
- Independent design office in Nyhavn opened, 1945.
- Senior teacher at the School of Interior Design, 1945-55.
- Designed Bing & Grøndahl store on Amagertory Square, 1946.
- Eckersberg Medal, 1947.
- Svend Schaumann's flourist's shop, Kongens Nytory, 1948.
- »Contemporary Danish Architecture« exhibition, London, 1950.
- Danish Handcraft Guild exhibition, London, 1950.
- Mrs. Anthon Petersen's summer house in Asserbo. 1950.
- »Good Design« exhibition, Chicago, 1951.
- Designed the Trusteeship Council Chamber, U.N. Headquarters, New York, 1951-52.
- Furniture rangers for Baker Furniture, Inc., Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1951-55.
- Furniture ranges for France & Daverkosen, Ørholm, and France & Søn, Hillerød, 1953-69.
- »Angewandte Kunst aus Dänemark« exhibition, Zurich, 1952.
- Remodeled the Georg Jensens store on Fifth Avenue, New York, 1952.
- Single-family house for M. Aubertin, Nakskov, 1952.
- Designed a room with his own furniture, etc. at the Nordenfjeldske Museum of Applied Art, Trondheim, 1952.
- »Home of the Future« exhibition at the Cabinetmakers Guild 400th anniversary exhibition at Forum, 1954.
- Georg Jensen silversmithy, 50th anniversary exhibition, Museum of Decorative Art,
- »Fifty Years of Danish Silver« exhibition, London, 1954; in Washington, Louisville, and Dallas, 1955; and St. Louis, 1957.
- Designed Denmark's stand at the Xth Triennial in Milan, 1954. Honorary diploma.
- Villabyernes Bio movie theatre, Vangede, 1955. Awarded a diploma by Gentofte Municipality.

- Director's office for France & Daverkosen, Ørholm, 1955.
- Model apartment at the H55 exhibition in Helsingborg, Sweden, 1955.
- Designed SAS's ticket offices in Europe and Asia, 1956-61.
- »Neue Form aus Dänemark« traveling exhibition in 8 German cities and Vienna,
- Designed a store in Toronto for Georg Jensen, Inc., 1956.
- Designed interior of DC-8 planes for SAS.
- Design office moved to 38 Sølvgade, 1957.
- Remodeled the Georg Jensen store on New Bond Street, London, 1957 (together with Trevor Danatt).
- Denmark's stand at the XIth. Triennial in Milan, 1957. Awarded a gold medal.
- Furnished the ambassador's residence at the Royal Danish Embassy, Washington D.C., 1960.
- »The Arts of Denmark« exhibition, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, 1960.
- »The Arts of Denmark« exhibition moved Washington D. C., Chicago, and Los Angeles, 1960-61. to museums in Trophy for
- The Kaufmann International Design Award, 1960.
- Began a common-law marriage with Hanne Wilhelm Hansen, 1961.
- Summer-house for Anders Hostrup-Pedersen, Raageleje, 1962.
- Expansion of Bing & Grøndahl store, 1963.
- A.I.D. prize for design, Chicago, 1964.
- Visiting professor, Institute of Design, Chicago 1965.
- Designed the Hotel Richmond restautant, 1965.
- Remodeled the Wilhelm Hansen Musikforlag store on Gothersgade, 1966.
- »Two Centuries of Danish Design« exhibition, Victoria & Albert Museum, London,
- »A Century of Danish Design« exhibition, Kelvingrove Museum, Glasgow, and Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester, 1968.
- Exhibition of arts and crafts. Brussels. 1969.
- Retrospective exhibition of his own work, Charlottenborg Autumn Exhibition, 1970.
- Recieved a life-long pension from the State Budget, 1971.
- Exhibition of his own work, Cantu. Italy, 1973.
- Made an Honorary Royal Designer for Industry, London, 1978.
- Retrospective exhibition of furniture and other work, Museum af Decorativen Art, Copenhagen, 1982.
- Knight of the Order of the Dannebrog, 1984.
- Died, May 17, 1989.





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