

# Exhibition on furniture designer Finn Juhl at Nationalmuseum in Stockholm



**This spring, Danish designer Finn Juhl and his unique creations will receive renewed international attention when Sweden's leading art museum, the newly-renovated Nationalmuseum in Stockholm, opens the exhibition *Finn Juhl: Architectural Furniture Designer*. The exhibition has been organised in collaboration with Ordrupgaard, and makes use of extensive loans of items from the Danish art museum, which is currently closed due to extension building. The exhibition is the first major international exhibition on Finn Juhl in recent times. The event is thus something of a sensation, and underlines the steadily increasing international interest in Finn Juhl and his work.**

Finn Juhl is known as one of the leading Scandinavian furniture designers of the period from the 1940s to the 1960s. His perfectionism in attention to detail, his sense of materials and his innovative approach to furniture design have made him known and loved by design enthusiasts far beyond Denmark's borders, where his elegant design is highly prized. The furniture was usually produced in small series in collaboration with the master joiner Niels Vodder. However, Finn Juhl was also one of the first Danish designers to design furniture for large-scale production.

## International breakthrough

Finn Juhl received his big breakthrough in the USA in the 1950s, when the Academy Council of the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts awarded Juhl the prestigious task of designing the interior and furnishings for the Trusteeship Council Chamber at the UN headquarters in New York. Today, this UN chamber is considered to be a principal work in Finn Juhl's career.

Finn Juhl soon became popular in the US, helped along by his friendship with Edgar Kauffmann Jr., head of

the Museum of Modern Arts' Department of Industrial Design, partly because of the excellent quality in which his furniture was produced by Niels Vodder, and partly because his organic form language was unique in the US. Juhl's furniture became a symbol of good individual taste on the part of the better-educated members of the American middle class who wanted products that would stand out from mass-produced furniture production.

Today, Finn Juhl's furniture has won great international recognition, and major works such as the two-person *Poet Sofa* (1941) and the *Chieftain Chair* (1949) are considered design icons. Finn Juhl designed and furnished his own house in Ordrup in 1942. Today, the house remains largely as it was in Finn Juhl's time, and thanks to a private donation it became part of Ordrupgaard in 2008, where it represents a textbook example of Scandinavian modernism. Finn Juhl is represented in several permanent design exhibitions all around the world.

Ordrupgaard is currently closed due to the construction of the museum's new extension, which has been designed by the Norwegian architectural firm Snøhetta. The period of closure has enabled extensive loans of items to Nationalmuseum in Stockholm. Ordrupgaard is expected to reopen in 2020.

**The exhibition *Finn Juhl: Architectural Furniture Designer* may be viewed at Nationalmuseum Stockholm from 14 March to 22 September 2019.**

## Press viewing

The exhibition will be presented to the press on Wednesday, 13 March from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm. Registration by 11 March to: [press@nationalmuseum.se](mailto:press@nationalmuseum.se).

## Further information

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