

Vitra Accessories Collection

Developed by Vitra in Switzerland

The Vitra Accessories Collection encompasses the growing portfolio of design objects, accessories and textiles produced by the Swiss furniture company. The collection is based on classic patterns and objects conceived by designers such as Alexander Girard, Charles and Ray Eames and George Nelson. In addition to these classics, it also includes pieces by contemporary designers like Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec, Jasper Morrison, Arik Levy, Hella Jongerius and Michel Charlot. Authenticity, joy and playfulness are hallmarks of the Vitra Accessories Collection.

For the spring / summer collection of 2017 Vitra will expand its accessories portfolio with design objects by Charles and Ray Eames and Alexander Girard and launch an extension of the iconic L'Oiseau by Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec. Vitra is introducing the following new products:

L'Oiseau (ceramic), Ronan & Erwan Bouroullec, 2011/2017

L'Oiseau, the representation of a bird in repose, was designed initially as a non-commissioned work in the studio of the brothers Bouroullec. As an avian figure of archaic simplicity, L'Oiseau is reminiscent of the unpretentious artefacts of Nordic folk art. Its sleek form attractively enriches contemporary interiors without the cuteness or even tackiness so commonly associated with animal figures. Considerable craftsmanship goes into the fabrication of the ceramic L'Oiseau figure, making it a unique object with individual characteristics. The ceramic bird is available in a choice of colours.

Plywood Mobile, Charles & Ray Eames, ca. 1940/2017

The Plywood Mobiles were created in the early 1940s in connection with a series of experiments conducted by Charles and Ray Eames for the purpose of refining their plywood moulding techniques. These designs, whose shapes are strongly reminiscent of Ray's artwork and graphics, were hung from the ceiling of the Eames' apartment in Los Angeles. Each Plywood Mobile consists of two abstract, organically shaped plywood elements, which playfully rotate around and inside one another.

Cover Prints, Ray Eames, 1944/2017

From the 1940s into the 1960s, Charles and Ray Eames maintained close ties to the Los Angeles-based periodical Arts & Architecture, a journal on contemporary art, architecture, music and film. Charles contributed numerous articles, and between 1941 and 1947 Ray designed 27 covers for the publication, which was extremely influential during its heyday. The Cover Prints are high-quality screen prints of three cover designs by Ray Eames from the year 1944 that Vitra selected together with the Eames Office.

Classic Trays Dot Pattern, Charles & Ray Eames, 1947 / 2017

The expansive oeuvre of Charles and Ray Eames is not limited to product design, architecture, exhibition design and cinematography, but also encompasses a large number of graphic designs, most of which were created by Ray Eames. The Classic Trays, which are made of laminated plywood, come now not only in a range of Girard patterns and motifs but also with the Dot Pattern design. The Dot Pattern was developed by Charles and Ray Eames in 1947 and began to appear on pillows, cushions, blankets and other items from 1949 onwards.

Greeting Cards (Happy Birthday/ Love in the Afternoon), Charles & Ray Eames, 1955/1957/2017

The Eames graphic designs, most of them created by Ray Eames, were used in the Eames Office for business events and by the designer couple for personal celebrations – like the 'Happy Birthday' card created by Ray on the occasion of Charles's 48th birthday. The growing collection of Greeting Cards includes motifs designed by Alexander Girard for various purposes, selected by Vitra in cooperation with the Girard family, and card designs by Ray Eames, chosen by Vitra in collaboration with the Eames Office.

Graphic Bags, Alexander Girard, 1961-1971/2017

Along with his colleagues Charles and Ray Eames and George Nelson, Alexander Girard was one of the leading figures in American design during the post-war era. While textile design was the primary focus of Girard's oeuvre, he was also admired for his work in the areas of furniture design, graphics, exhibitions and interior architecture.

Girard brought a sensuous playfulness to twentieth-century design that had been absent from the austere aesthetic of classic modernism. In cooperation with the Girard family, Vitra has selected 'Eyes', 'Love Heart' and 'Snake' – motifs designed by Alexander Girard for various purposes – to adorn the Graphic Bags.