

Home Stories for Winter

Iconic pieces are timeless, often handed down from one generation to the next. They embody and express our personal stories. This winter Vitra puts the focus on classic works of mid-century design: created in the 1950s and 1960s in California, today these furnishings and accessories represent the modernist spirit of progress and innovation, while simultaneously conveying a sense of warmth and conviviality. They help us rediscover our own home during the cooler days and months of the year.

Lounge Chair, American cherry

Design: Charles & Ray Eames, 1956

'Why don't we make an updated version of the old English club chair?' With this comment, Charles Eames initiated the development of the Lounge Chair, a process that took several years. The aim was to satisfy the desire for an amply proportioned chair that combined ultimate comfort with the highest quality materials and craftsmanship. The armchair designed by Charles and Ray Eames in 1956 set new standards: it is not only lighter, more elegant and more modern than the conventionally ponderous club chair – it is also more comfortable. Thanks to these qualities, the Lounge Chair became one of the most famous designs by Charles and Ray Eames and has attained the status of a classic in the history of modern furniture.

Vitra now offers the Lounge Chair with a veneer wood shell in American cherry. The warm, subdued colour and accentuated grain of this variety of wood give the armchair a contemporary look. For the winter promotion 2017, the cherry wood shells will be combined with upholstered cushions in natural leather in the colour Chocolate. This fresh version of the Lounge Chair is perfectly suited to both classic and modern interiors.

Occasional Table LTR, American cherry

Design: Charles & Ray Eames, 1945

The LTR (Low Table Rod Base, 1950) is a small, versatile occasional table designed by Charles and Ray Eames, who used it in their own home in a variety of different ways. A number of these tables are still found in the Eames House today. Standing individually or in groups, some are decorated with objects from the Eames collection, while others simply serve as a practical side table next to an armchair or sofa.

The LTR is now also available with a face veneer of American cherry. The characteristic grain and warm colour of the wood lends a natural look to the surface, making the side table an eye-catching piece despite its small dimensions. The LTR is available with a chrome-plated or black powder-coated base and a choice of table tops: cherry veneer (new), solid wood with a natural finish, HPL plywood or gold leaf on plywood with a transparent coating.

Plywood Elephant & Eames Elephant (small)

Design: Charles & Ray Eames, 1945

In the 1940s, Charles and Ray Eames spent several years developing and refining a technique for the three-dimensional moulding of plywood, creating a series of furniture items and sculptures in the process. Among these initial designs, the two-part elephant proved to be the most technically challenging due to its tight compound curves, and the piece never went into serial production. A prototype was given to Charles's 14-year-old daughter Lucia Eames and later borrowed for the exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art in New York in 1946. It still survives in the Eames family archives today.

After a limited edition in 2007, Vitra has now added a plywood version of the legendary Eames Elephant to its standard portfolio. The sculptural figure with a high-quality face veneer in American cherry went into serial production for the very first time in 2017.

Several years ago, the Eames Elephant was also launched in plastic, making it available to the target group for which it was originally intended: children. And Eames Elephant (small) also comes in plastic in a choice of colours: the design is identical but on a smaller scale.

Eames Wool Blanket

Design: Charles & Ray Eames, 1947

Like many other prominent twentieth-century architects and designers, Charles and Ray Eames also sought to implement their ideas about colours, shapes and materials in the design of textiles. The 'Dot Pattern' was created in 1947 in conjunction with an exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. The pattern is a large-scale graphic composition made up of crosses and dots, thereby referencing the abstract paintings by Ray Eames from the 1930s.

Previously available only in the classic black and white version, the 'Dot Pattern' of the Eames Wool Blankets now comes in several additional colours: light blue, taupe and mustard. The soft decorative blanket therefore suits a wide range of interiors.

The Eames Wool Blankets are made of 100% high-quality Merino lambswool. They are extremely light, fine and soft to the touch while also providing optimal warmth and thermal balance. Executed in a jacquard weave, the colours of the pattern are reversed on the front and back. The wool blankets are made with hand-crafted care by a German blanket manufacturer with over 100 years' experience in the processing of natural fibres.

Eames Plastic Armchair RAR white

Design: Charles & Ray Eames, 1950

The Plastic Chairs number among the most well-known designs by Charles and Ray Eames. One model has always stood out from the myriad combinations of organically shaped shells and various bases in this family of chairs: the iconic Rocking Armchair Rod Base (RAR).

This popular rocking chair is now available for a limited time in a new version with a cream shell mounted on a powder-coated base in ivory with light-stained maple runners. Designed entirely in light tones, the model has a fresh and contemporary look and lends a striking note to darker interiors, while offering an understated addition to lighter colour schemes.

Eames House Bird white

Charles and Ray Eames enriched the collage-like interior of their private home, the Eames House, with numerous objects and accessories that they brought back from their travels. For over fifty years, the figure of a wooden bird has stood in the centre of the living room – an artefact of American folk art that was evidently highly treasured by the couple, since it also appeared frequently as an accessory in photographs taken by Charles and Ray.

Traditionally only in black, the Eames House Bird by Vitra is now also being manufactured in white. Adding a fresh touch to soft-coloured interiors, this new white version perfectly accentuates the proportions of the figure and its green eyes. The Eames House Bird white is available for a limited time.

Fan Clock

Design: George Nelson, 1956

Belief in progress and growing economic prosperity were central aspects of the American way of life around 1950. Everything seemed possible, and people strove to be 'modern'. With the aim of bringing modern design into American homes, George Nelson conceived a wide array of everyday objects: lamps, clocks and other domestic accessories. Up until the 1970s, the Nelson office created many different items for the home, including the Bubble Lamps and the Ball Clock, which became icons of mid-century modern design.

The Fan Clock is Vitra's latest addition to the extensive collection of George Nelson wall clocks in its portfolio. Designed with twelve three-dimensional tapered elements made of cherry wood, the shape of the clock not only resembles a fan but also conjures up floral associations. Created from natural materials, it is a charming addition to any interior.

The Fan Clock is equipped with a high-quality quartz movement and, like all other Nelson wall clocks, also represents a refreshing alternative to conventional wall time pieces.

Girard Ornaments

Design: Alexander Girard, 1965

On his extensive travels, Girard avidly collected textiles and folk art from all over the world. Together with the contents of his studio, which encompassed hundreds of drawings, prototypes and samples, Girard bequeathed a major portion of these objects to the Vitra Design Museum in 1993.

The Girard Ornaments come in assorted motifs – Heart, Sun, Moon, Dove and Mouse – that were selected by Vitra, in cooperation with the Girard family, from the vast array of images created by the designer. The decorative pendants are manufactured from metal with a polished brass effect. The range of motifs does not limit their use to seasonal occasions but some are perfect, for example, for Christmas time.

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