

## **Organic Chair, Limited Edition Sheepskin Design: Charles Eames & Eero Saarinen, 1940**

**As a concept that was ahead of its time, the Organic Chair by Charles Eames and Eero Saarinen was a direct predecessor of several chair designs from the 1940s and '50s by both Charles & Ray Eames and Eero Saarinen that gained international acclaim and had a lasting influence on the development of design. For the 2019/2020 winter season, Vitra is launching the Organic Chair Sheepskin as a limited edition with a premium-quality sheepskin cover.**

The Organic Chair was conceived as part of a submission to the 'Industrial Design Competition for the 21 American Republics', also known today under the title 'Organic Design in Home Furnishings', which was announced in 1940 by the New York Museum of Modern Art. Charles Eames and Eero Saarinen won first prize in several categories. The competition entries, which were expected to meet the criteria of industrial production, were to be exhibited in autumn of 1941. For the purpose of producing the Organic Chair's shell, Eames and Saarinen developed a method for moulding plywood into shapes with compound curves during the months leading up to the show. The only way to achieve the desired shape was by making cuts in the laminated sheets of veneer. Just a few Organic Chairs were manufactured for the competition exhibition, but they were not subsequently mass produced due to high costs and immature technology. Not until 1943 were the first three-dimensionally moulded plywood objects successfully mass produced – in the form of leg splints for the US Navy. The Eameses were able to produce their first plywood furniture designs in 1945, and organically shaped chair shells were manufactured and sold in large quantities from 1950 onwards.

Thanks to its harmonious proportions, biomorphic shape and slim layer of upholstery, the Organic Chair is exceedingly comfortable. It can serve as a cosy reading chair or be used for seating in lounge and dining areas. The Organic Chair has fully retained its aesthetic appeal and is regarded today as an icon of furniture design.

The Organic Chair and other classics embody a vital cultural heritage that must be preserved, researched, cultivated and thoughtfully updated. Vitra dedicates itself to this task on various levels and in close cooperation with the designers or their heirs. Such collaboration facilitates and legitimises certain changes, such as adapting a product to the needs of modern users or to contemporary manufacturing methods. Caring for the classics makes it possible to keep them alive and explore the details of their history.

Vitra has now developed the Organic Chair Sheepskin for the 2019/2020 winter season. The high-quality sheepskin cover radiates a cosy warmth, and the fleecy feel offers a purely indulgent sitting experience.

The Organic Chair Sheepskin is being produced in a limited edition. Each chair is authenticated with a numbered label.