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Plywood Group LCW 75th anniversary edition
Design: Charles & Ray Eames, 1945

Time Magazine called the LCW 'the chair of the century', and Eliot Noyes, Director of Industrial Design at the MoMA in New York from 1939 to 1946, described the Eames Plywood Chairs as 'a compound of aesthetic brilliance and technical inventiveness'. In 2020 the Plywood Chair will be 75 years old.

In 1945 Charles and Ray Eames first succeeded in developing a new method for the serial production of furniture: they combined elements made of three-dimensionally shaped plywood with flexible rubber connections, so-called 'shock mounts'. They consequently created one of the most famous chair designs of the twentieth century.

The couple had been experimenting with techniques for moulding plywood into three-dimensional shapes since they had moved to Los Angeles. They built a machine within their home to bend layers of wood that had been glued together. They described it as ´Ala Kazam! like magic´ and with it explored the possibilities that this new technique offered.

During the war, Charles and Ray had progressed far enough with their innovations to be able to produce leg and arm splints for the wounded as commissioned by the US Navy, as well as moulded parts for aircraft. At the same time, they continued to experiment further, developing sculptures, animals, children's furniture and other works in plywood. The Plywood Chairs attracted great attention in 1945 and earned them much recognition among design critics and the public.

Talking about the development process of these chairs, Charles Eames declared, 'A chair should look equally good approached from above or from below. If it is going to be a chair, it should be a whole chair. ' The Plywood Chairs achieved just this.

To celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Plywood Chairs, Vitra is presenting a limited duotone edition of the LCW (Lounge Chair Wood) featuring a black base paired with a seat and back in dark brown walnut.

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