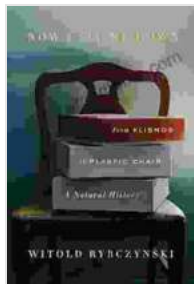


From Klismos to Plastic Chair: A Journey Through the History of Chair Design



Now I Sit Me Down: From Klismos to Plastic Chair: A Natural History by Witold Rybczynski

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

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The chair is a ubiquitous object in our everyday lives. We use it for sitting, relaxing, working, and even decorating our homes. But have you ever wondered how the chair evolved from a simple stool to the diverse and sophisticated designs we see today?

In this article, we will embark on a journey through the history of chair design, exploring the key moments and influences that have shaped its development. We will begin with the ancient Greeks and their iconic klismos chair and trace the evolution of chair design through the Middle Ages, Renaissance, and Modern Era to the present day.

The Klismos Chair

The klismos chair is considered one of the earliest and most influential chair designs in history. It originated in ancient Greece around the 5th

century BC and was characterized by its elegant, curved back and legs, which were often decorated with intricate carvings.



The klismos chair was a symbol of status and wealth in ancient Greece and was often used by royalty and other elite members of society. It was also a popular motif in Greek art and can be seen in many sculptures and vases.

The Middle Ages

During the Middle Ages, chair design was influenced by the rise of Christianity and the development of the Gothic style. Chairs became more elaborate and ornate, with high backs and elaborate carvings. They were often made of oak or other heavy woods and were often upholstered in rich fabrics.



Medieval chair, circa 14th century

One of the most distinctive features of medieval chairs was the use of armrests. Armrests were considered a sign of status and were often reserved for the wealthy and powerful.

The Renaissance

The Renaissance witnessed a revival of classical learning and art, and this had a profound influence on chair design. Chairs became more elegant and refined, with a focus on symmetry and proportion. They were often made of walnut or other fine woods and were often inlaid with ivory or other precious materials.



One of the most famous chairs from the Renaissance is the Savonarola chair. This chair is characterized by its high back and narrow seat, and it is said to have been designed by the Italian friar Girolamo Savonarola.

The Modern Era

The Modern Era saw a revolution in chair design, with the rise of new materials and technologies. Metal, plastic, and plywood became increasingly popular, and chairs became more functional and minimalist.



Modern chair, circa 1920s

One of the most influential chairs from the Modern Era is the Barcelona chair, designed by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe in 1929. This chair is

characterized by its simple, geometric form and its use of chrome-plated steel.

The Plastic Chair

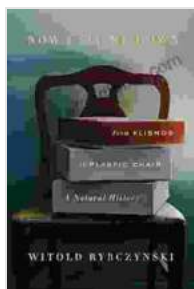
The development of plastic in the 20th century had a profound impact on chair design. Plastic chairs were lightweight, durable, and affordable, and they quickly became popular for both indoor and outdoor use.



One of the most famous plastic chairs is the Panton chair, designed by Verner Panton in 1960. This chair is characterized by its one-piece, molded form and its vibrant colors.

The history of chair design is a fascinating one, filled with innovation, creativity, and style. From the elegant klismos chair of ancient Greece to the sleek plastic chair of the modern era, chairs have evolved to meet the changing needs and tastes of society.

Today, chairs are more than just pieces of furniture. They are works of art, expressions of personal style, and symbols of our culture.



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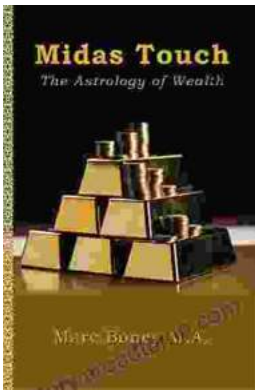
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