

MICHAEL THONET AND THE NO 14 CHAIR



MICHAEL THONET - (1796-1871)



He was a designer specialising in 'bentwood' furniture, manufactured from veneers of natural woods, normally beech, which were softened by steam.

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His chair designs contrasted with the hand crafted chairs of the day. His No 14 Chair was the first chair to be mass produced in thousands, on a production line.

Thonet saw that there was a opportunity to use his innovative industrial production technology, to mass manufacture new designs. The production line was staffed by semi and unskilled workers. There was no longer a need to have skilled craftsmen at every stage of production.

THE No 14 CHAIR



The No 14 chair was manufactured as separate parts and simply screwed together (six 'steam bent' wood parts, ten screws and two nuts). This construction technique was a precursor to the way furniture is constructed in our modern world, as flat packs. This meant that thirty six completed but disassembled chairs, could be packaged safely, in a one cubic metre 'sea crate', for transport around the world.

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The No14 Chair was composed of solid beech, not veneers. Thonet had perfected steaming solid wood and bending it to form unusual shapes.

THE THONET PHILOSOPHY

The **Arts and Crafts Movement** of the 19th Century believed in the manufacture of hand crafted products, made by craftsmen, often as single items / one offs.

Thonet believed in the mass manufacture of quality furniture, on a production line, using semi and unskilled workers. The Thonet Company manufactured for a world market and fifty million No 14 Chairs were sold before 1930. www.technologystudent.com

OTHER THONET CHAIRS



DESIGNER - ROBIN DAY



Robin Day, trained at the Royal College of Art in the 1930s. He was a furniture designer, best known for his innovative design of the Polyprop Chair in 1963. This was manufactured from polypropylene, through injection moulding. This design became a trend setter for cheap, quality, mass manufactured, stackable chairs. Over 30 million have now been sold.

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THE POLYPROP CHAIR - 1



Probably one of the most used chairs in the world is Robin Day's Polyprop Chair of 1963, which continues to be manufactured to this day.

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Although the design has slowly evolved over the years, it is very popular as a stackable chair in schools, universities, canteens and conference venues.

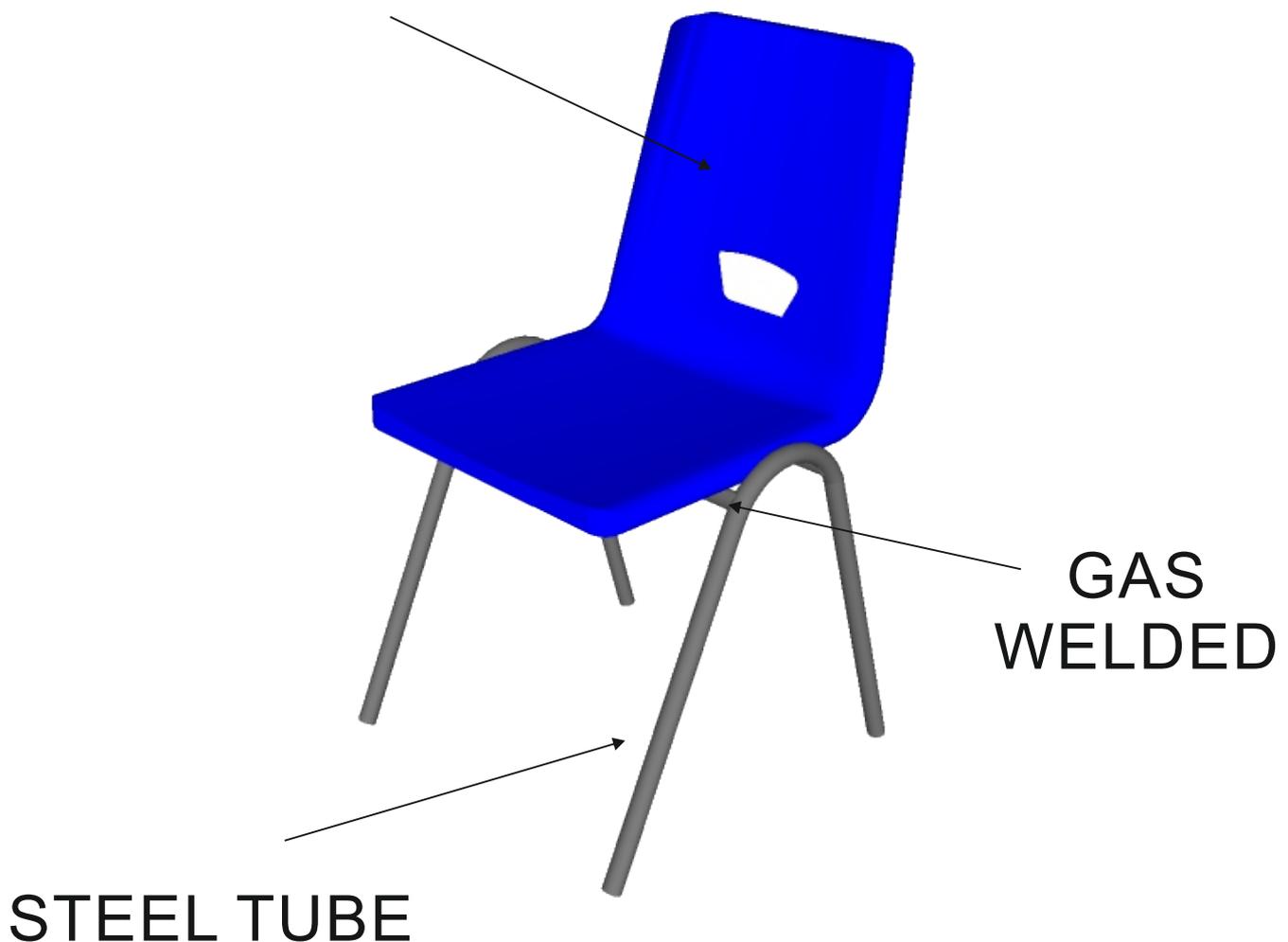
Revolutionary design, with a one piece seat and backrest, manufactured through injection moulding. Required extensive research into ergonomics, before the manufacturing process could begin.

THE POLYPROP CHAIR - 2

High impact resistant polypropylene, is used for the seat and tubular steel for the frame. This means that the chair is cheap and can be mass produced.

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POLYPROPYLENE



CHARLES RENNIE

MACKINTOSH(1868 to 1928)

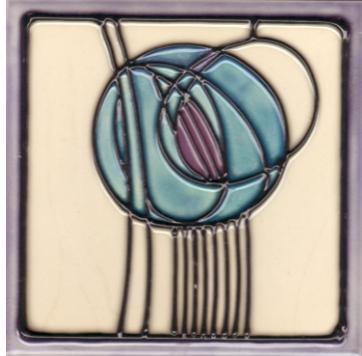


Renowned Scottish designer / architect, who contributed significantly to design in the early twentieth century. He designed inspirational buildings, such as the Glasgow School of Art (1899). He also produced floral and landscape watercolours, textile designs and interior designs. His furniture was innovative in design, at a time of change from Art Nouveau to Modernism.

He was influenced by the Japanese style and design, recognising Japanese simplicity, style, functionality and their use of natural materials .

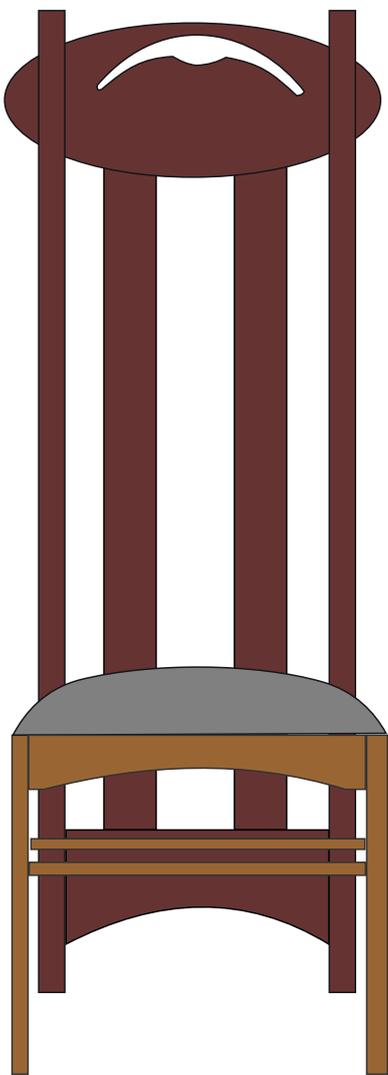
Died in 1928 with only 6 pounds to his name. His original designs, artwork and furniture now sell for hundreds of thousands of pounds.

SELECTION OF DESIGNS CHARLES RENNIE MACKINTOSH

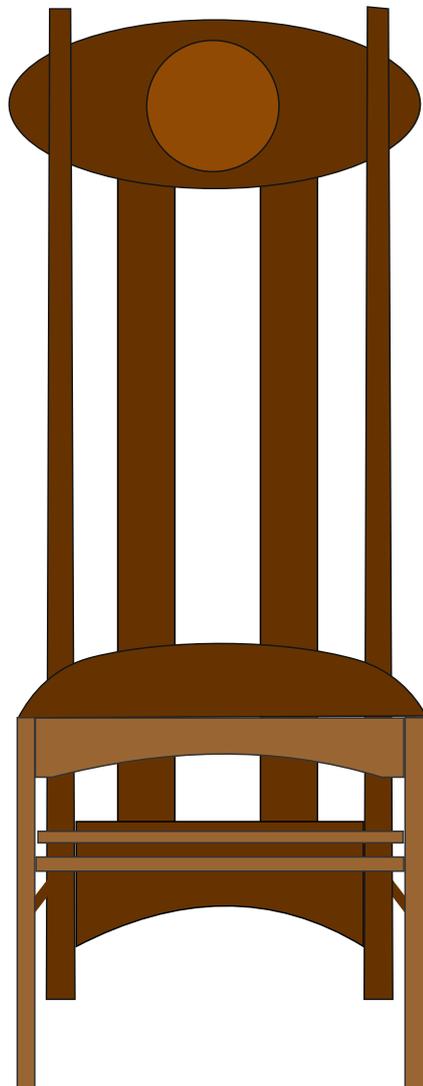


Mackintosh
Rose

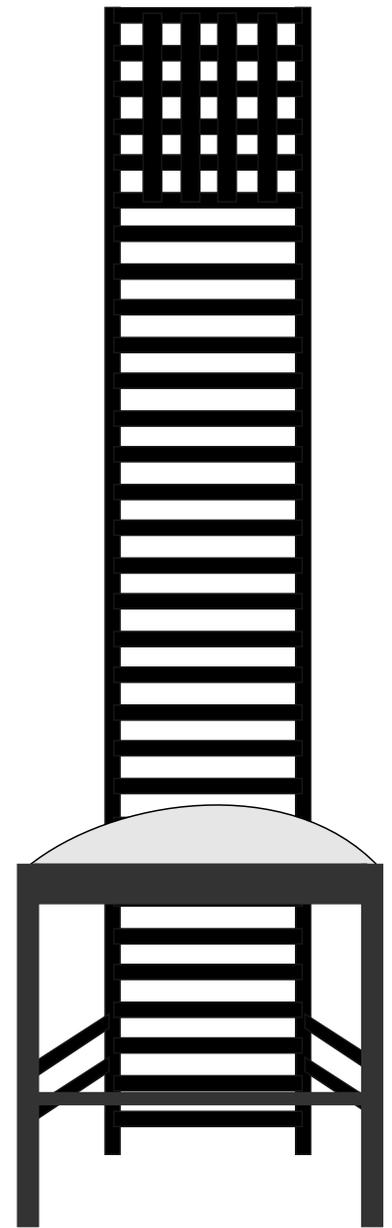
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Argyle Chair
1897

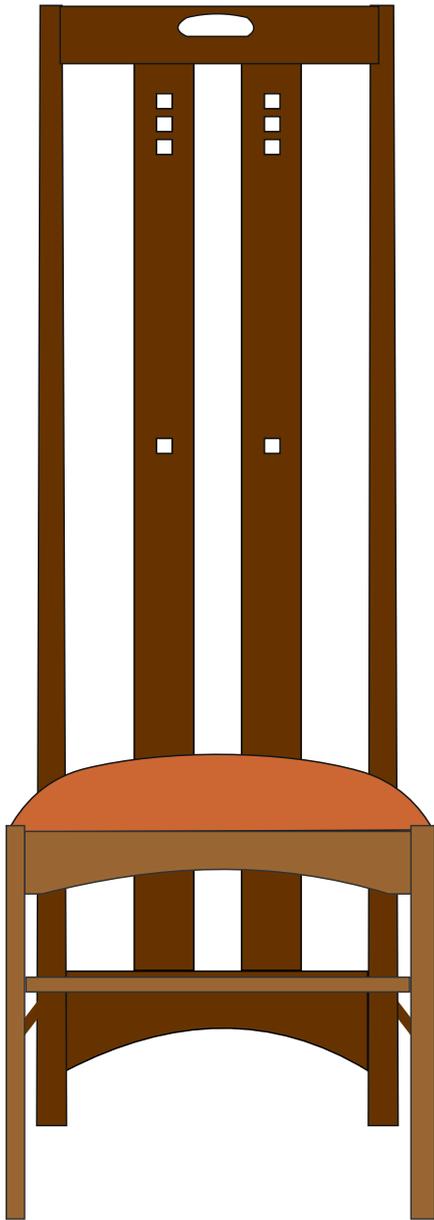


High Back Chair
1899



Hill House Chair
1903

ANALYSIS OF A MACKINTOSH CHAIR



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TALL BACK

SIMPLE SHAPE AND
FORM

EARLY MODERNIST
DESIGN

MINIMAL DECORATION

NATURAL WOOD

Ingram Chair
(1903)

JAPANESE INFLUENCE

GEOMETRICALLY ARRANGED
SQUARES / SHAPES

EILEEN GRAY - DESIGNER

Eileen Gray, a modernist designer, born in, Ireland in 1878. She was an artist, interior designer and architect. Trained in London, but spent most of her time in France.



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Very few women worked in design during the early twentieth century, as this profession was male dominated.

Her work can be regarded as both functional and artistic. Much of her work was at the leading edge of the modernist movement and was influenced in particular, by the Art Deco design movement.

EILEEN GRAY

THE BIBENDUM CHAIR

In a modernist in style, very different to traditional designs of the same period. It has a simple and functional form and is a timeless design, still popular today and regarded as a classic, iconic design. Chromed steel frame and curved leather tubing, giving rise to an extremely comfortable seating position.

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The name for the chair was taken from the Michelin man, a character developed to sell tyres.

EILEEN GRAY THE E1027 TABLE

Designed in 1929 - still manufactured today. It is another Eileen Gray piece of furniture that has become a design icon/classic.

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Height adjustable. The stand is composed of two 'telescopic' sliding tubes, with a pin on a chain, used to lock them in position.

High grade tubular stainless steel and tempered glass, provide a quality finish.