

# The Chair Fair

## AN OPEN EXHIBITION OF CHAIRS DESIGNED DURING THE PAST TEN YEARS

Chairs are at once practical and metaphoric, everyday objects and expressions of individuality. The challenge of this program (manageable size and a universal client) has attracted designers, architects, and others: how to combine performance and personality? Everyone wants to design a truly new chair, the "better mousetrap" of the design professions. *Call for Entries:* Chairs submitted by architects, designers, artists, manufacturers, craftspeople and others are welcome; maximum of three chairs per entrant. Chairs must be designed within the last ten years, and fit within a 3' x 3' footprint. A jury of distinguished designers and artists will choose winners in several categories.



## MADE POSSIBLE BY:

IDCNY  
Diverse Corporation  
Furniture Consultants, Inc.  
Knoll International  
Herman Miller, Inc.  
Steelcase Inc.  
Atelier International  
The Gunlocke Company  
Sussel-Hammerman

Registration via the official entry form is mandatory by 1 October 1986. Please read the form carefully for complete rules and conditions of entry. If no forms are available, write or call:

The Architectural League of New York  
457 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10022  
212/753-1722

Sponsored by The Architectural League of New York  
at the International Design Center, New York (IDCNY)  
30-20 Thomson Avenue, Long Island City, New York  
Exhibition open 10 November-6 December 1986

## JURORS:

Richard Artschwager, artist  
Mino Bollini, architect and designer  
Milton Glaser, designer  
T. Merrill Prentice, Jr., sculptor and architect  
Lella Vignelli, designer

# The Architectural League of New York

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## For More Information:

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## News Release

### ARCHITECTURAL LEAGUE ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF CHAIR FAIR

New York, November 13, 1986--A distinguished jury, composed of artist Richard Artschwager, designer and architect Mario Bellini, designer Milton Glaser, sculptor and architect Tim Prentice, and designer Lella Vignelli, selected five winning chairs from a field of 387 entries in the Architectural League's Chair Fair. Chairs submitted to the Fair ranged from flights of individual whimsy to art pieces to chairs designed by industrial designers for the nation's major furniture companies. The five winning chairs and their designers are the following:

#### "Toniotta"

Designed by Enzo Mari  
Entered by Furniture of the Twentieth Century  
227 W. 17 Street  
New York, NY 10011  
Materials: Aluminum alloy, cowhide  
Dimensions: 15 1/4" x 18 1/2" x 33"  
Date: 1985

#### "The Pool Chair"

Designed by Steven Holt, Tucker Viemeister and Lisa Krohn  
149 Spring Street  
New York, NY 10012  
Materials: Steel tubing, acrylic, ceramic tile,  
pool accessories  
Dimensions: 30" x 30" x 36"  
Date: 1986

[MORE]

"Cafe Costes"

Designed by Philippe Starck  
Entered by Furniture of the Twentieth Century  
227 W. 17 Street

New York, NY 10011

Materials: Iron tubing, bent plywood, stuffed leather  
cushion

Dimensions: 19" x 22" x 31"

Date: 1984

"The Derecktor Chair"

Derecktor Furniture  
311 East Boston Post Road

Mamaroneck, NY 10543

Materials: Honduran mahogany, brass

Dimensions: 27 1/2" x 25" x 33 1/2"

Date: 1986

Unnamed

Designed by Tom Musorafita

Box 551

Bedford, NY 10506

Materials: "Found" construction materials

Date: 1986

The jury noted that it had decided not to select an office chair as a winner because serious evaluation of such chairs must be done over a period of time. Such chairs actually are a combination of machines--the inner workings that allow the chairs to move--and chairs, and must be judged on their long-term comfort and durability.

Photographs of the winning chairs and other chairs in the exhibition can be requested from the Architectural League, 457 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10022.

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## News Release

### ARCHITECTURAL LEAGUE'S CHAIR FAIR BEGINS NOVEMBER 10

NEW YORK--Four hundred chairs designed during the past ten years will fill the atrium of Center One at the International Design Center, New York (IDCNY) from November 10 through December 5, 1986. The Chair Fair, sponsored by the Architectural League of New York, will offer an up-to-the-minute survey of every possible kind of chair. Many of the entries have been designed in the last year or two, and none is older than 1976--these chairs are "news from the front" in the world of chair design. Architects and artists, designers and students, manufacturers and craftspeople from all over the country and as far away as Japan have sent in their own visions of what chairs should and might be. Their chairs range from contract seating to quickly-recognized models in everyday use and one-of-a-kind objects that straddle the line between function and art. They will all be displayed side by side, and visitors will have the chance to try out many of the entries in the only way that really counts--by sitting in them to see how they feel.

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The chairs will be evaluated by a distinguished jury, which will award trophies to noteworthy entries. So as not to prejudice the types of chairs submitted, the choice of categories for judging has been left to the jury's discretion; their deliberations will respond to the actual chairs that have been submitted to the Fair. The members of the jury are artist Richard Artschwager, designer Mario Bellini, graphic designer Milton Glaser, sculptor and architect T. Merrill Prentice, Jr., and designer Lella Vignelli [biographical material attached].

The jury's awards will be made during the opening party at IDCNY, taking place at 6:30 pm on Thursday November 13, when food and drink will accompany a gala viewing of the chairs. In addition to presenting awards, jury members will offer general views and comments on the entered chairs.

Historical and cultural perspective on chairs will be offered by Arthur C. Danto, Johnsonian Professor of Philosophy at Columbia University and art critic for The Nation, in a talk entitled "The Seat of the Soul." His lecture will take place at The Urban Center, 457 Madison Avenue, at 6:30 pm on Monday November 24. Mr. Danto, the author of numerous books including The Transfiguration of the Commonplace and The Philosophical Disenfranchisement of Art, will consider both the chair in art and the chair as art.

The four hundred chairs in IDCNY's Center One will be on view Monday November 10 through Friday December 5. Exhibition hours are Monday through Friday, 9 am to 5 pm. In addition, the exhibit will be open on Saturday November 22 from 10 am to 5 pm. The exhibit

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will remain closed Thanksgiving Day and the day following, November 28-29. IDCNY, at 30-30 Thomson Avenue in Long Island City, is less than fifteen minutes from midtown Manhattan [directions and transportation information enclosed].

The Chair Fair is made possible by the support of IDCNY, Domore Corporation, Furniture Consultants Inc., Knoll International, Herman Miller Inc., Steelcase, Inc., Atelier International, The Gunlocke Company, and SunarHauserman, Inc. Architectural League programs are also supported by the National Endowment for the Arts and the New York State Council on the Arts.

NOTE: All photography and stories must credit the Architectural League of New York as organizer and sponsor of the Chair Fair.

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The Architectural League of New York sponsors

# The Chair Fair

VISITORS' COMMENTS

Please let us know  
what you think  
of the Chair Fair!

Nov 19

I can't believe I'm the first entry in this book. Fantastic show. Very entertaining and wonderfully free of dogma or pulled punches of any kind. A "museum" show without the crowds or hype. Still; more people should see this than probably will. Transportation instructions would probably help those glued to the island over there. If there's a mailing list, please put me on it.

RBS

61 S. Portland Ave.

Brooklyn, N.Y. 11217







