

# onOffice

141

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ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN AT WORK

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## WHAT

SIR TERENCE CONRAN

*"Innovation"*

BETHAN GRAY

*"Multicultural"*

## IS

BARBER & OSGERBY

*"Visionary"*

## BRITISH

In a time of turmoil, three top designers contemplate the country's identity

The  
British  
issue

## DESIGN?



### READ THE LABEL

Menswear brand Dunhill's new HQ merges office with showroom

### PRIDE OF PLACE

AHMM's The Bower transforms Old Street into a place for the public

### CONTRACT CENTURY

A brief history of British contract furniture design since 1926



# BRITISH SPECIAL

*British design has helped to define the way  
we live and work over the last century or so.  
Here we take a look at the highlights*

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**EILEEN GRAY, E1027**

The E1027 height-adjustable table has made its way as one of the most popular design icons of the 20th century. Distinctive in form, it's now marked as a true classic.  
*Stockist and photo: Aram*

**ROBIN DAY, MOMA COMPETITION**

Robin Day and Clive Latimer won the award in the storage section of MoMA's prestigious International Low-Cost Furniture Competition – where their plywood storage system with tubular aluminium legs garnered attention from Hille.  
*©Robin & Lucienne Day Foundation*



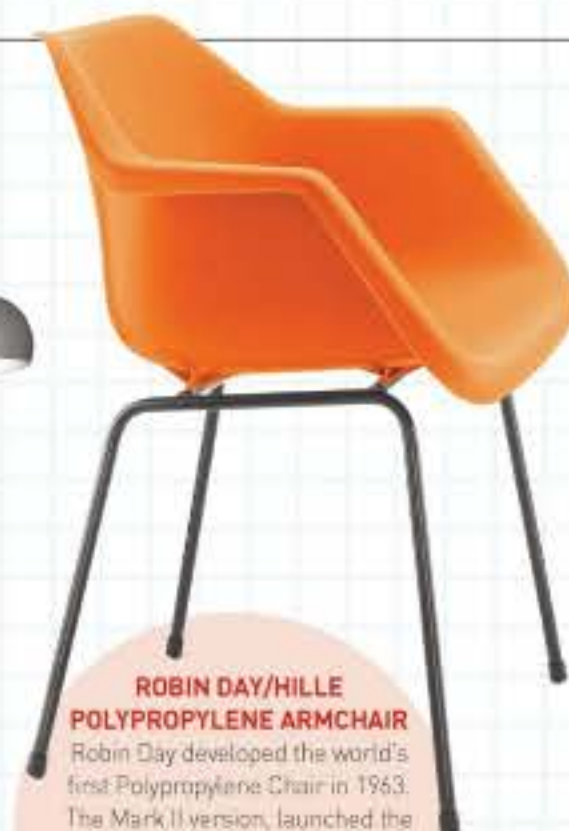
**ERNEST RACE, THE ANTELOPE AND ANTELOPE BENCH**

The Antelope is an iconic example of post-war chair design – featuring a simple moulded plywood seat, vertical slats and ball feet. It can be seen in homes, cafes, restaurants and offices, both indoors and out.  
*Race Furniture*



**FLOS, ARCO FLOORLAMP**

Since Achille and Pier Giacomo Castiglioni created this lamp for Flos, it has been copied on numerous occasions. Conceived as a way to provide direct light without being fixed to the ceiling, it's a simple and time-honoured design.  
*Flos*



**ROBIN DAY/HILLE POLYPROPYLENE ARMCHAIR**

Robin Day developed the world's first Polypropylene Chair in 1963. The Mark II version, launched the following year, was adopted as the standard design. Manufactured with an array of different bases, the tub-shaped armchair was later added in 1967.  
*Hille*

**RODNEY KINSMAN (OMK), OMKSTAK CHAIR**

The OMKstak has been in continuous production since its first launch, and has sales now exceeding one million units. It's also included in permanent collections of 20th century furniture at the V&A, Design Museum and Philadelphia Museum of Art.  
*OMK Design*



**ROBERT BEST, BESTLITE DESK LAMP**

Highly influenced by Bauhaus, the Bestlite features clean lines and an elegant frame. Function is paired with flexibility, as it utilises a movable shade and arm – a now historical piece for the desk.  
*Stockist and photo: Aram*

**ROBIN DAY, HILLESTAK CHAIR**  
The Hillestak, Day's first mass production, features a thin moulded beech plywood seat and back, connected by a laminated beech spine and V-shaped legs – now synonymous with schools, assembly halls and public spaces.  
*Robin & Lucienne Day Foundation*  
*©CincinnatiZoo, photo: Mark Whitfield*



**ROBIN DAY, ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL LOUNGE CHAIR**

Designed for the Festival of Britain, the lounge chairs are characterised by wing-like moulded plywood arms that give an aerodynamic quality – plus narrow steel rod legs that appear to float off the ground.  
*©Robin & Lucienne Day Foundation*

**SIR TERENCE CONRAN, SUMMA RANGE FOR HABITAT**  
Conran launched his flatpacked Summa furniture range, and then went on to set up the Habitat shop in 1964 to sell it. Both became synonymous with British furniture design, with Habitat remaining as a mighty force today.  
*Sir Terence Conran*



**ROBIN DAY, FORUM ARMCHAIR**

Day designed the distinctive Forum settee and armchair. The design breaks with tradition due to its hardwood frame – the comb joints are also visible outside of the units, rather than concealed under upholstery, creating a sleek and strong aesthetic.  
*©Robin & Lucienne Day Foundation, photo: Dennis Hooper, Claxville Studios Ltd*

**ROBIN DAY, SERIES E SCHOOL CHAIRS**  
The chairs resulted from an invitation by Consortium of Local Authorities for Wales to design a range for schools. An emblem for the education sector for its versatility and durability.  
*©Robin & Lucienne Day Foundation*



**FRED SCOTT, SUPPORTO CHAIR**

Scott's most significant chair made so much of an impression that it's still produced today. The result of four years' research, it has inbuilt flexibility and is used by architects and designers.  
*Hille/Zoefig*





**ROBIN DAY, RD SEATING**

Responding to a brief prepared by the National Health Service, the RD seating was originally developed for hospital waiting rooms. Designed to withstand high levels of wear and tear, it's hygienic, comfortable and easy to maintain.  
©Robin & Lucienne Day Foundation, photo: Michael Barnett

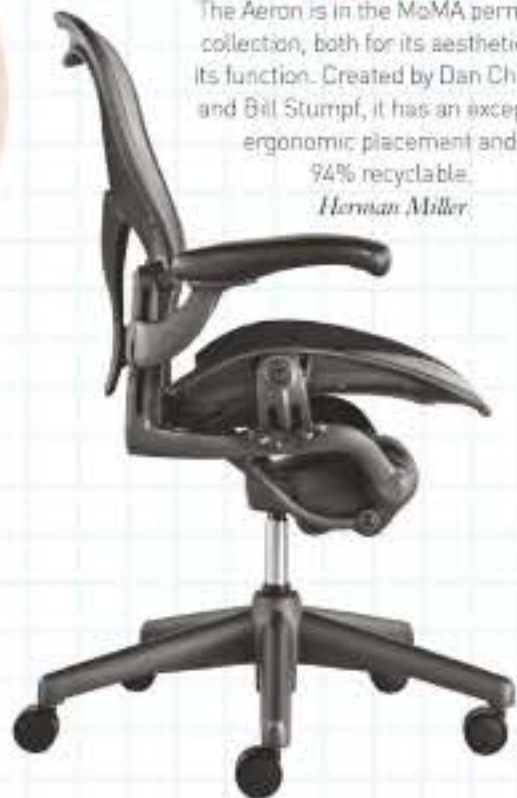
1984

1988



**TOM DIXON, SPIRAL LIGHT**

Although Dixon "can't recall why [he] made this coiled springy lamp", it sparked an enduring passion for lighting and is a true marker of his decorative career to come. In his *Dictionary* of 2013 he says: "This was probably my first real lamp."  
Tom Dixon



**HERMAN MILLER'S AERON CHAIR**

The Aeron is in the MoMA permanent collection, both for its aesthetics and its function. Created by Dan Chadwick and Bill Stumpf, it has an exceptional ergonomic placement and is 94% recyclable.  
Herman Miller

1994

1999



**ROBIN DAY, CHILDSPLY CHAIR**

Created for a charity auction organised by twentytwentyone, the chair, cut from a single sheet of birch-faced plywood, features smart and smooth detailing; the seat slots neatly into the side frame, supported at the back by a slanted board.  
Robin & Lucienne Day Foundation/ Twentytwentyone, photo: Mark Whitfield

**ILSE CRAWFORD, PERCHING STOOLS FOR ARTIFORT**

The Artifort stools were designed as a family of three for flexible and comfortable use – and to promote a healthier and mobile way of life. They are a breakout space necessity, featuring hand-stitched leather saddles over a simple wire frame.  
Ilse Crawford

2016

2017



**MARK GABBERTAS, THE MOZAIK FOR ALLERMIUR**

Comprised of three principal shapes, the Mozaik is upholstered to allow for different seating styles that facilitate different patterns of behaviour and function. With a small soft square stool and rectangular bench, the range is highly flexible.  
Allermuir



**DOSHI LEVIEN, CASA MODERNISTA SOFA FOR MOROSO**

Launched at Salone del Mobile in 2018, the Casa Modernista was a flag (and one of many) of the shift towards a more flexible and lifestyle-focused way of working. The piece is also a subtle homage to the Russian-Ukrainian architect Gregori Warchawchik.  
Moroso

**BENCHMARK'S OVO COLLECTION**

Benchmark is synonymous for blending traditional craftsmanship with technology. After going behind the scenes last September, we saw just that – the Ovo includes tables, storage and seating that show boldness and simplicity.  
Benchmark



2018



**JASPER MORRISON, O-CAP CHAIR**

The O-Cap comes after the Cap Chair and Cap Chair 2 – featuring an updated durable yet soft design. Morrison defines this as the technological evolution from the Cap-Chair from 2013 – a lean towards complex manufacturing.  
Cappellini

**BENJAMIN HUBERT (LAYER), AXYL COLLECTION FOR ALLERMIUR**

Layer produced the Axyl collection as a clear demonstration of how to achieve a more sustainable method of production – for example, the recycled aluminium chairs use just 5% of the energy used to create new aluminium.  
Layer/Allermuir



**BARBER & OSGERBY, SOFT WORK FOR VITRA**

As a symbol of the modern workplace – that is, an office-cum-living space-cum-public space – the Soft Work launch at Orgatec 2018 marked a new turn for commercial design. Work is no longer tied to a specific location – it's flexible, and Barber & Osgerby truly exemplified this transition away from the desk.  
Barber & Osgerby for Vitra



**LIQUI'S THEODORE BENCH DESK SYSTEM**

As a response to Theodore Roosevelt's desk – which still exists after a century – the Liqui desk system has been designed to withstand the test of time. Durable, robust and versatile, it has multiple workstations for an ideal open-plan setup.  
Liqui

