



1. Thonet Chair No. 14 (1859)

Designed by Michael Thonet, the “bistro chair” was one of the first industrial furniture designs. It used an innovative **steam-bending process** to form elegant, repeatable curves. The chair was light, affordable, flat-packed, and made of only six parts, making it **easy to assemble** and repair. It became an **icon** of European café culture and symbolized the shift from craft to mass production, proving that good design can be democratic, efficient, and timeless.

2. Barcelona Chair (1929)

Designed by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe and Lilly Reich for the 1929 Barcelona Pavilion, the Barcelona Chair became a **modernist icon**. Created as a throne for Spanish royalty, it combines an **X-shaped chrome frame** with a tufted leather seat and back. Both sculptural and simple, it reflected Mies’s “**less is more**” philosophy and marked a new era in industrial design, blending elegance, function, and modern materials.

wassily chair

4. Eames Lounge Chair (1956)

Designed by Charles and Ray Eames, the Lounge Chair and Ottoman **redefined comfort** in modern design. Made of molded plywood shells with soft leather cushions and an aluminum base, it **balanced luxury with modern simplicity**. Introduced in 1956, it showed that modern furniture could be warm and inviting, not just minimal. Still produced today, it remains a symbol of **postwar innovation** and **timeless** comfort.

5. Eames Molded Plywood Chair (1946)

Designed by Charles and Ray Eames, the Molded Plywood Chair (LCW) marked a breakthrough in **material innovation**. Using techniques first developed for WWII leg splints, they shaped plywood into **smooth, organic curves**. The chair’s seat and backrest flex with the body through rubber shock mounts, offering **comfort** without upholstery. Lightweight and affordable, it proved that industrial materials could create beauty, warmth, and **ergonomic design**.

6. Eames Storage Unit (1950)

Designed by Charles and Ray Eames with Herman Miller, the Eames Storage Unit (ESU) brought **modular design** into the home. Using metal frames, plywood, and colorful panels, it offered **flexible storage** that could serve as a shelf, desk, or cabinet. Its playful colors reflected **postwar optimism**, while its modular system showed how furniture could be **practical, affordable, and joyful**—anticipating later flat-pack and customizable designs.

nelson shelving

womb chair