Sustainable Chairs

Nordic Design Competition
“The Coastal Furniture” chair designed by Nikolaj Thrane Carlsen and manufactured by "TangForm"

The main focus in the development process has been on sustainable thinking while preserving aesthetics and the unique seaweed texture. The seaweed roofs on Læsø has been the key inspiration source. The shell for the lounge chair is made of 100% biodegradable seaweed composite material, which I have processed and developed. The material consists of eelgrass and carrageenan. Eelgrass grows naturally near the coastline only to be collected when washed ashore. Carrageenans is extracted from certain red algae. Circular economy has been a key focus throughout the process. Hence, the oak wood underframe is attached by four brass brackets, which makes it easy to separate and recycle individually.

JURY STATEMENT

"It's unique. It has a mission and it is a stunning conversation piece"

Sustainability in furniture design is not limited to the innovative use of materials. To design sustainably, is also to consider our heritage – for instance, think about the abundance of the Danish coastline – Marine plants, algae – seaweed is a fibrous material from nature’s source itself – and to us, a highly recognizable one. We are a region bound to our land – and our coasts – and now we are ready to display how these materials can be used in other fields, and in entirely new ways.

Talking about heritage, this material has an educational element to it – and a prospective story about our ever-changing environment, too. Let our children gather the seaweed to make their own chair. In the process they’ll learn about our shared past, while slowly composing the story of our future.

Besides its sustainable elements, a lot of thought has been put into crafting the shape. The design is aesthetically pleasing and displays a fine proportional balance. We look back in time to the unique seaweed roofs on the island of Læsø – we’re looking back at something solid, something durable — and at the same time we’re peeking ahead. The chair’s wooden base has a strong presence, almost blocky – the shell is unexpected, solid yet subtle – strangely futuristic yet rooted in tradition. The chair is a cutting-edge and still familiar design – ready for final development.

In Denmark, we are good at designing chairs – and have always been recognized for this. This is why we dare to design a chair in seaweed. To adjust to global changes, we need people that actually innovate – and with “a coastal furniture” Nikolaj Thrane has done exactly that.
FINLAND
The "Clash 331" chair is designed by Samuli Naamanka and manufactured by "Naamanka"

Clash 331 chair is an outstanding all-purpose chair. Clash 331 is a chair designed for both public spaces and modern homes. The seat section is pressed at one time. Combination of aspen and birch. Solid wood legs are glued directly to the holes in the seat. The seat section is thick in the glue area and no separate structure is required under the seat. The most important thing is to design beautiful and durable objects that last for a long time. Clash 331 facts are: all the components of the chair are made in one city in Lahti. Legs are Finnish certified wood and plywood with Finnish veneer.

JURY STATEMENT

“The most important thing is to design beautiful and durable objects that last for a long time”

Object should remain longer than you, timeless design and functionality are equally important. The best and most appreciated Finnish design has always based on that. Samuli Naamankas Clash 331 chair is an outstanding all-purpose chair. It is a chair designed for both public spaces and modern homes. The seat section is pressed at one time. Combination of aspen and birch. Solid wood legs are glued directly to the holes in the seat. The seat section is thick in the glue area and no separate structure is required under the seat. Legs are Finnish certified wood and plywood with Finnish veneer. In this chair every single detail is carefully taken care of, it is a perfect chair for every occasion.

The most important thing is to design beautiful and durable objects that last for a long time, and only professional designers are able to do that.
ICELAND
ICELANDIC
NATIONAL WINNER

The “KOLLHRIF” chair is designed by Sölvi Kristjánsson, Portland and manufactured by “Málmsteypan Hella and Portland”

The purpose is to encourage better seating positions and meet the needs of energetic people that have high mobility needs. The function is for seating and the chair can be folded into a floor seat. The stool is inspired from the vision of sustainability and is designed to motivate people to recycle aluminium. The stool material is from recycled aluminium and cork, which are both durable materials. The aluminium in the stool is recycled from 14,000 tea lights, that were collected as a part of an awareness campaign about recycling aluminium in Iceland. The design is what we call good design or responsible design. That is, it has purpose, is beautiful, durable and sustainable.

JURY STATEMENT

"Kollhrif – a stool made of recycled aluminium and cork"

The Icelandic jury selected the stool Kollhrif as Iceland’s entry to the Nordic Design Competition - Sustainable Chairs competition. According to the jury, the stool is both innovative and environmentally friendly, serving as a good example of sustainable design. The stool is made of recycled aluminium from 14,400 tea lights and cork, which is a very environmentally friendly material. Its design is therefore not only about its visual appearance; it also considers environmental impact, recyclable materials, and multifunctionality. The stool can easily be taken apart and made into a floor seat, which is a well-thought-out idea. One of its two manufacturers is Málmsteypan Hella, a well-established Icelandic family-owned business. The jury believes this partnership is beneficial for the stool, as it takes advantage of the company’s knowledge and ability and supports local industry at the same time.
NORWAY
The "HÅG Capisco" is designed by Peter Opsvik and manufactured by "HÅG/Flokk"

The HÅG Capisco is a modern design icon. The unique saddle shape offers endless ways to sit or half stand. This encourages the end user to vary the position. Front ways, back ways or sideways, whatever feels most comfortable. HÅG Capisco is Flokk’s design icon, best-seller & front-runner utilizing Flokk’s 5-III eco-design principles. Sustainability & circularity is integrated into all details; extreme low carbon footprint of 45 kg CO2, no glue or harmful chemicals, 48% recycled materials – w/ 53% plastic from household waste. Timeless design (>30 yrs. on market!), changeable wearing parts and few components enabling disassembly in less than 5 min w/ no special tools. First office chair ever granted Nordic Ecolabel Swan.

JURY STATEMENT

“HÅG Capisco: Re-use of materials and innovation in product design with focus on sustainability and healthy living”

From an environmental perspective, HÅG Capisco demonstrates life cycle thinking and circularity throughout the entire design. The chair is durable, repairable and easy to disassemble. It is made of recyclable materials, of which 50 percent are recycled post-consumer plastics.

In addition to the environmental perspective, sustainability is about society and economy. From a social perspective, the chair has a strong focus on ergonomics and healthy living. From an economic perspective, thanks to its success as an industrial product, the chair also has great commercial value.

The chair is still innovative, more than 30 years after it was first launched. Since then, HÅG has continuously responded to user feedback and continuously improved the design.

With its unconventional features, it challenges and provokes. The design reflects a playful approach to sitting, with unexpected design solutions. The idea behind the sculptural saddle shaped seat is that the best posture is always the next one.

HÅG Capisco is a great example of product design as a means for solving real life challenges. HÅG Capisco is the first office chair to bear the Swan Nordic ecolabel and has an Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) to document its life cycle environmental impact.
The "Petite" is designed by David Ericsson and manufactured by "Gärsnäs"

To reduce components and use as little material as possible, total weight of the Petite chair 2,5 kg. The Petite chair consists of 8 pieces of beech wood. The significant backrest is molded plywood together with a massive beech wood piece. To make a strong connection between the backleg and backrest, the same goes for the seat. More material where it’s needed. The Petite chair is stackable, produced in Sweden for the contract market and private market. The chair uses a small amount of resources because of its refined construction and the weight is only 2,5 kg.

JURY STATEMENT

"Petite – designed by David Ericsson and manufactured by Gärsnäs"

With its elegant curved legs, David Ericsson’s chair Petite for Gärsnäs is a classic chair with a contemporary twist. The design, with beautiful details, especially in the turned backrest, follows the idea that a chair meets the viewer’s eye first from behind.

With a weight of only 2.5 kilos the chair is extremely resource-efficient and sustainable both in the production process and for transportation. The chair pushes the limits for what is possible both from a design aspect and a technical perspective, and because it is made of hardwood it has a low carbon footprint. The chair is completely recyclable and four wooden screws, holding the back legs in place, are easy to remove and separate.

Petite, launched in 2018, is an environmentally and aesthetically sustainable chair that will last for at least as much time as it takes for a tree to grow up. The chair, created by a young designer with a bright future ahead of him, has already made a contemporary impact.