

Chapter 1

Who Was Hans J. Wegner?

Hans J. Wegner is widely recognized as one of the foremost furniture designers of the 20th century. Looking back on his career, it is clear that he adopted a variety of roles and responsibilities while developing his style over the course. He was a devoted and hardworking designer who continually studied the work of predecessors in Denmark and abroad, a consummately skilled master cabinetmaker, an educator, and an innovator who proposed new ways of living. The various aspects of Wegner's character, some evolving with the times and others remaining constant, came together in his designs, resulting in numerous iconic chairs of extraordinary variety and appeal.

This section features works from the 1930s, when Wegner first began designing chairs, and the 1940s, when he established his own studio. It also explores the many facets of his activities and surveys his long and fruitful career as a designer. After earning his master cabinetmaker's certification at the age of 18, Wegner met highly talented designers including Flemming Lassen, Arne Jacobsen, and Børge Mogensen, and these encounters laid the groundwork for his design career.