

Chapter 4

Chairs by Hans J. Wegner, 1945-1990

In this gallery, more than 100 of Wegner's chairs and other furniture are presented in chronological order, with different carpets indicating each decade from the 1940s to the 1990s. This display reveals not only the evolution of Wegner's design, which was grounded in the principle of reinterpreting and improving existing forms, but also the broader shifts in furniture manufacturing over time. Comparing *The Chair* (1949), whose crest rail was hand-carved, with works such as *Easy Chair GE530A* (1970) made with plywood, which became widespread from the late 1960s onward, illustrates the mechanization of production, changes in timber supply, and the gradual fading of traditional artisanal skills. From the 1970s onward, Danish furniture manufacturing entered a period of decline, and many workshops, including Johannes Hansen, were eventually forced to close.

Even as the times changed, many of Wegner's designs retained a handmade character, regardless of when they were produced. Today, the manufacturers that continue to make his chairs maintain their appealing sensory qualities, such as texture and comfort, while continually improving their production processes.

Wegner's chairs continue to be cherished because each one conveys the honesty and care that defined his approach to design. His lifelong pursuit of the chair was truly without parallel.