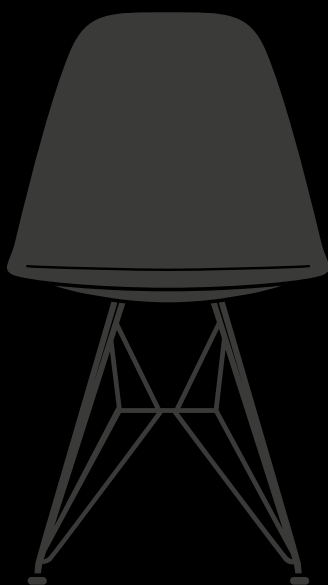


The Chair of a Century



eames.
vitra.

The Chair of a Century

eames.
vitra.



Charles and Ray Eames sitting on Eames Fiberglass Chairs, 1960

For many years, Charles and Ray Eames explored the idea of a single seat shell moulded to fit the contours of the human body. With the ground-breaking Eames shell chairs, they not only achieved this goal, but also established a new seating typology.

In 1950, the Eames shell chairs were launched on the market as the Fiberglass Side Chair and Armchair, which could be combined with several different bases and were later offered with an optional seat cushion or full upholstery. The chairs quickly proliferated in homes, offices and public spaces, and came to inspire generations. While the range of variants and materials evolved over time, the design concept of the Eames shell chairs has remained relevant for seven decades.

The Eames Fiberglass Chairs were the first mass-produced chairs with a three-dimensionally moulded shell in one piece. Before their creation in 1950, most chairs consisted of two separate seat and back components. The Fiberglass Chairs were also the first seating system with an assortment of bases suited to different purposes, and the first furnishings made of integrally dyed fibreglass.

As Charles and Ray Eames pioneered the use of integral dyes for fibreglass, they spent countless hours working to achieve the perfect results for each colour.

The Eames shell chairs were conceived as a group, consisting of the two seat shells, various bases and several upholstery options. The first models to be launched were a rocking chair with wooden runners, a lounge chair on a wire base, and a chair with four tubular steel legs. Other bases followed – some swivel-mounted – with components made of cast aluminium, wire or wood. All of the supports were attached to the fibreglass shells with so-called shock mounts, an innovation that Charles and Ray Eames had already developed in 1946.

Due to their inherent variability, the chairs can be used in almost any setting, whether in homes, offices or public spaces. There are task chairs, dining chairs, stadium chairs, lounge chairs, rocking chairs, auditorium chairs, stacking chairs, chairs with and without upholstery – and the shells are available in a myriad of colours.

In 1993, Vitra discontinued production of the fibreglass shells for reasons of occupational safety and ecology. A few years later, in close cooperation with the Eames Office, Vitra reintroduced the Eames Shell Chairs with seat shells made of polypropylene, a thermoplastic polymer that satisfied technical demands in regard to shape, strength and resilience.

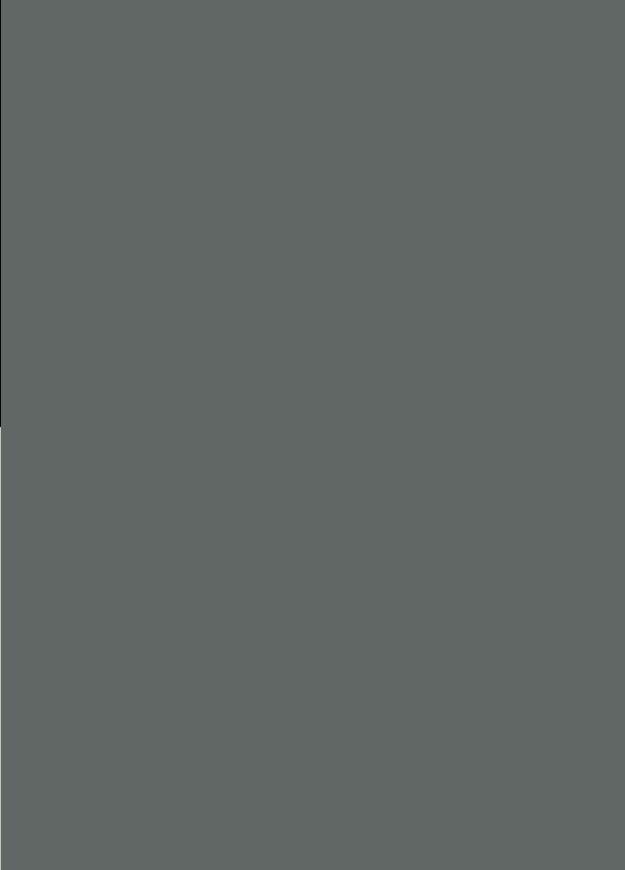
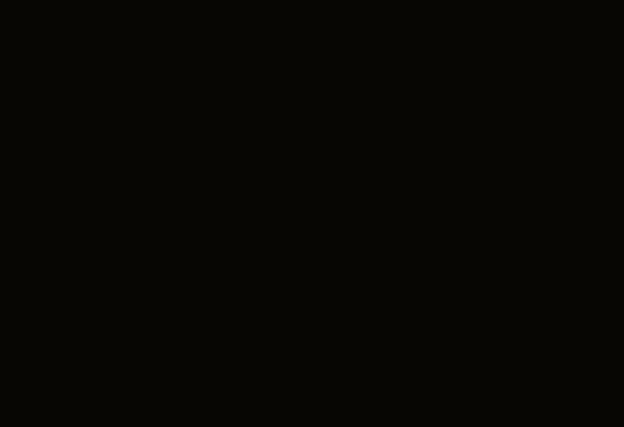
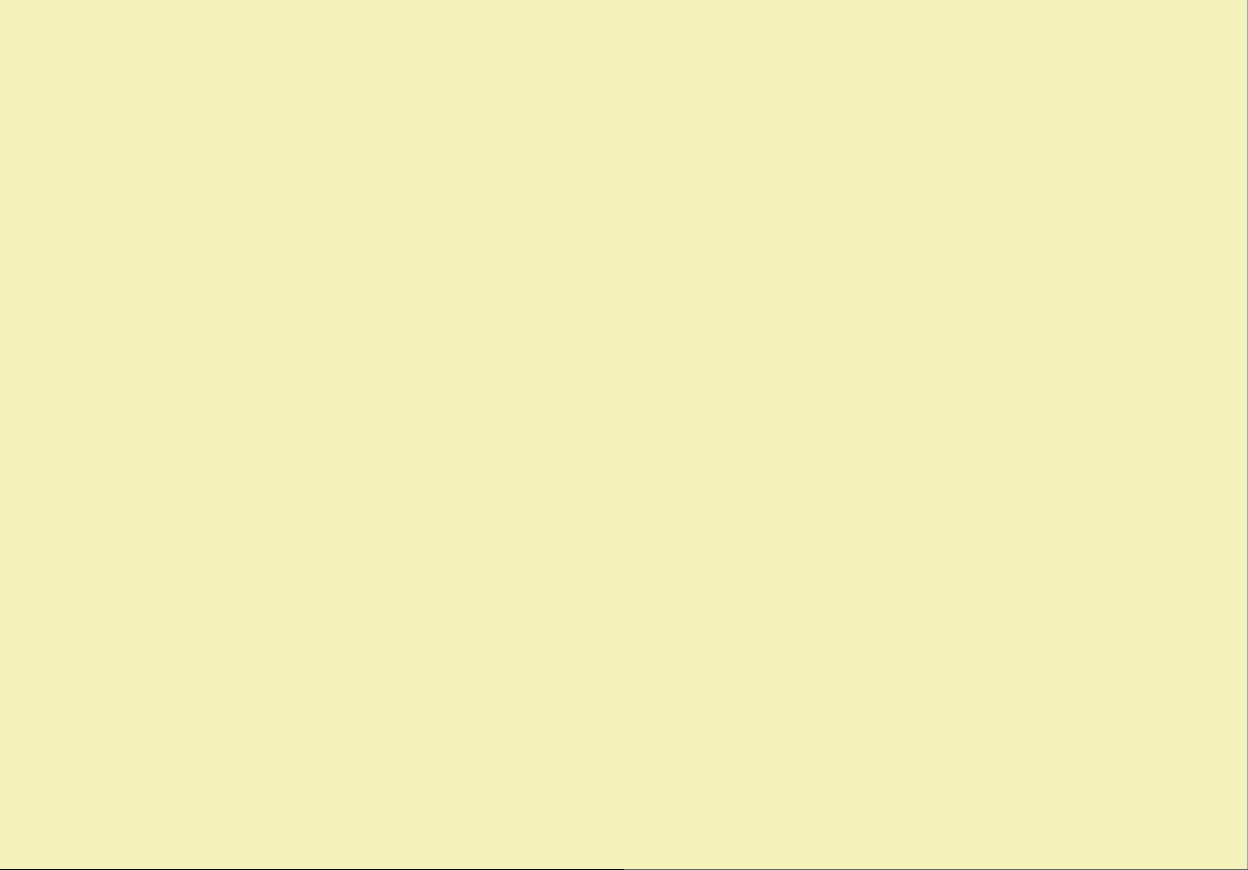
Thanks to a new high-tech production process, Vitra relaunched the Eames Fiberglass Chairs in 2018 in the original material of fibreglass. The colour selection is based on the vintage hues designed by Charles and Ray Eames.

New Colour Spectrum

The 2019 colour update creates a new link between the Eames Fiberglass Chairs and the Eames Plastic Chairs. In an extensive process of research and analysis, the historical Eames colours have inspired a harmonious palette that emphasises the affinity of the two chair groups. The result is a rich spectrum of hues highlighting the special properties of the different materials. The interplay of vibrant and more subtle colours makes it easy to combine Eames Plastic Chairs and Eames Fiberglass Chairs. The new colour range for the shells and Hopsak cover fabric was developed in close collaboration with the Eames Office. Vitra now offers more than 100,000 possible combinations for the chairs in these two product families.

The Designers

Charles and Ray Eames are counted among the most important figures of twentieth-century design. Their work spans the fields of furniture design, filmmaking, photography and exhibition design. Vitra is the sole authorised manufacturer of Eames products for Europe and the Middle East. When you own an Eames product made by Vitra, you know it is an original.



Neutral Tones

Colours like white and a variety of grey tones complement one another and harmonise well with subtle colour schemes. Calm and elegant, they make a perfect addition to any environment.









Mid Tones

The mid tones occupy the centre of the overall spectrum. They contain influences of the neutral and bright colour groups, but with a 'moderate' appearance.









Bright Tones

The pure shades make up the bright colour group. They instantly catch the eye with their vibrant clarity.

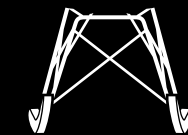
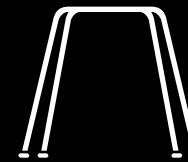
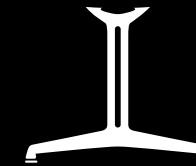
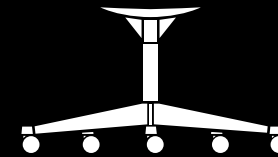
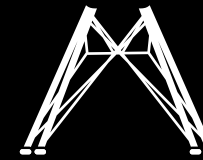
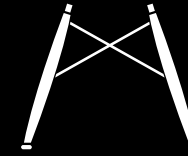
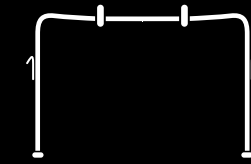
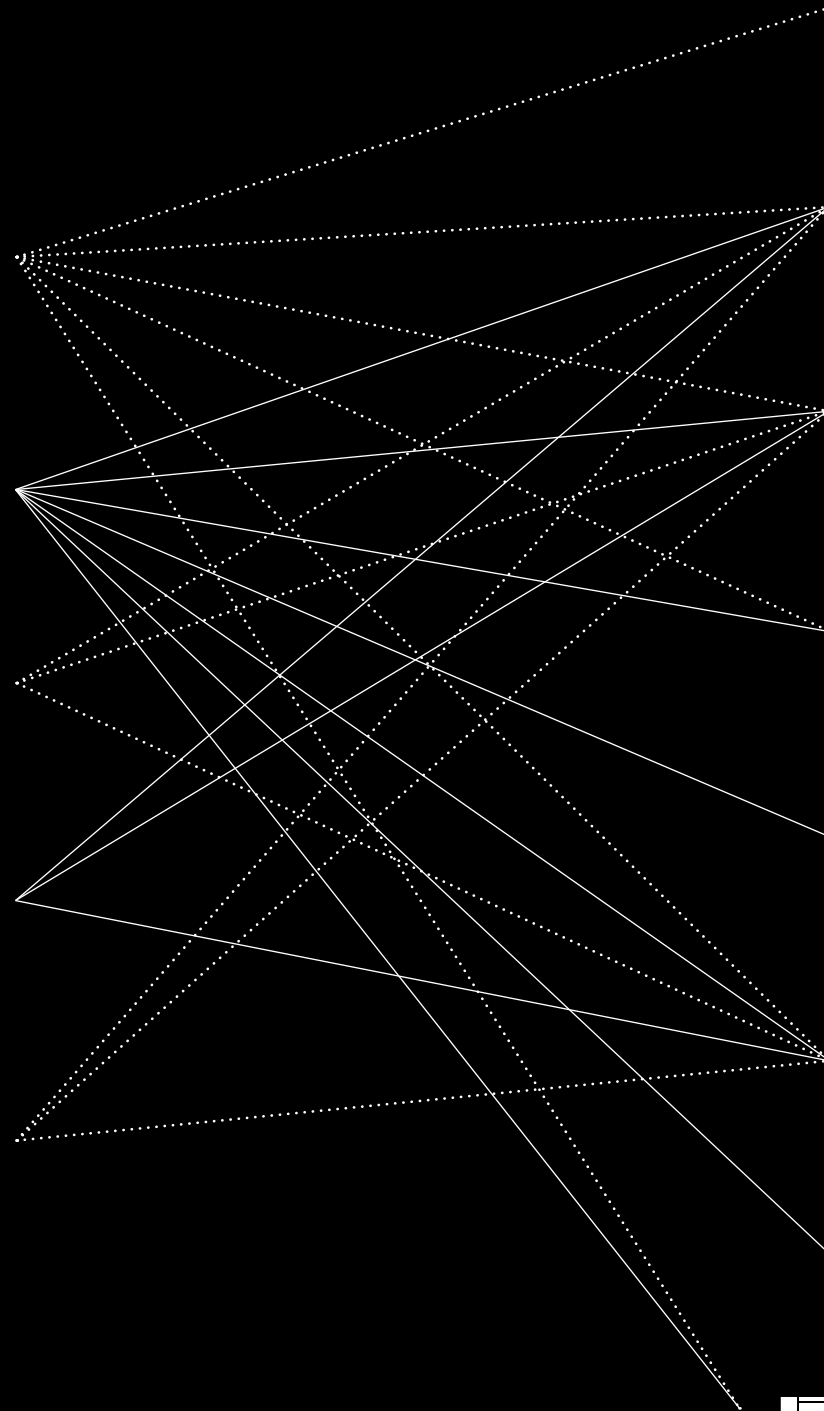
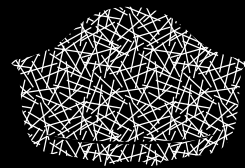
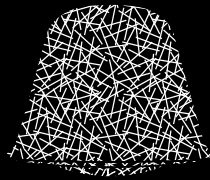
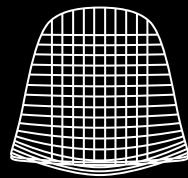
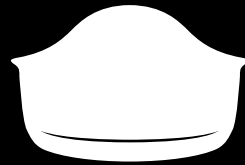
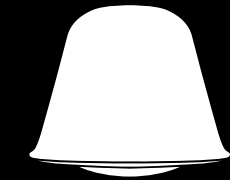






Start your configuration

Seat shells



Bases

Or select a predefined combination



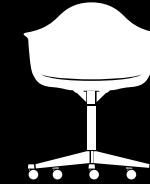
DSR /
Dining Height
Side Chair
Rod Base



DSW /
Dining Height
Side Chair
Wood Base



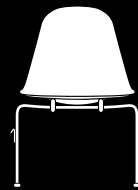
RAR /
Rocking
Armchair
Rod Base



PACC /
Pivot Armchair
Cast Base
on Castors



DSX /
Dining Height
Side Chair
X-Base



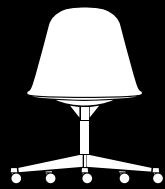
DSS /
Dining Height
Side Chair
Stacking Base



DSX /
Dining Height
Side Chair
X-Base



DSW /
Dining Height
Side Chair
Wood Base



PSCC /
Pivot Side Chair
Cast Base
on Castors



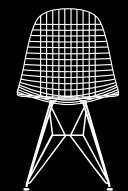
DKX /
Dining Height
K-Wire Shell
X-Base



DSR /
Dining Height
Side Chair
Rod Base



DAX /
Dining Height
Armchair
X-Base



DKR /
Dining Height
K-Wire Shell
Rod Base



DKW /
Dining Height
K-Wire Shell
Wood Base



DAR /
Dining Height
Armchair
Rod Base



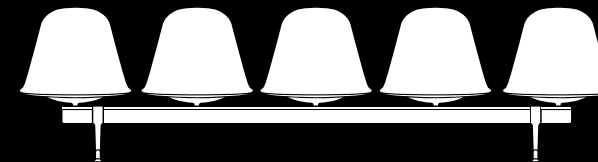
DAW /
Dining Height
Armchair
Wood Base



DAR /
Dining Height
Armchair
Rod Base



DAW /
Dining Height
Armchair
Wood Base



Beam
Seating
Side Chair /
Armchair



DAX /
Dining Height
Armchair
X-Base



DAL /
Dining Height
Armchair
La Fonda Base



Eames Fiberglass Chair



Eames Plastic Chair

Predefined combinations

Predefined combinations

Select a shell colour and base material

Plastic shell colours

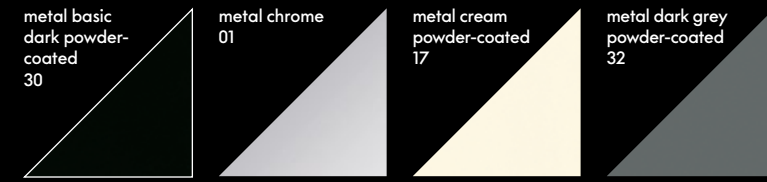


Shell colours and bases

Fiberglass shell colours



Wire Chair colours



Wire Chair base colours



Shell colours and bases

Base colours

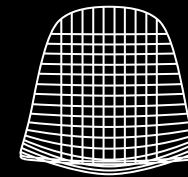
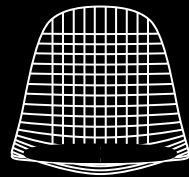
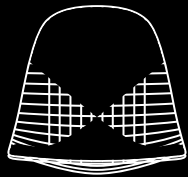
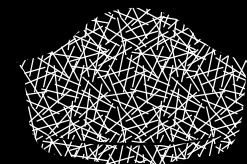
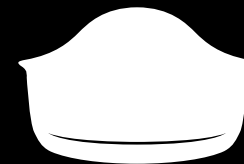
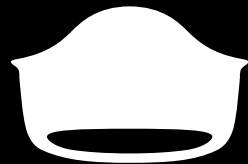
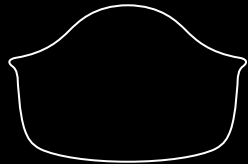
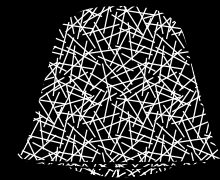
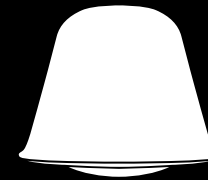
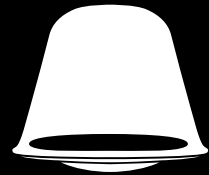
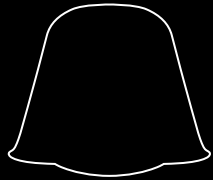


Choose an upholstery or keep it naked

Full
upholstery

Seat
cushion

No
upholstery

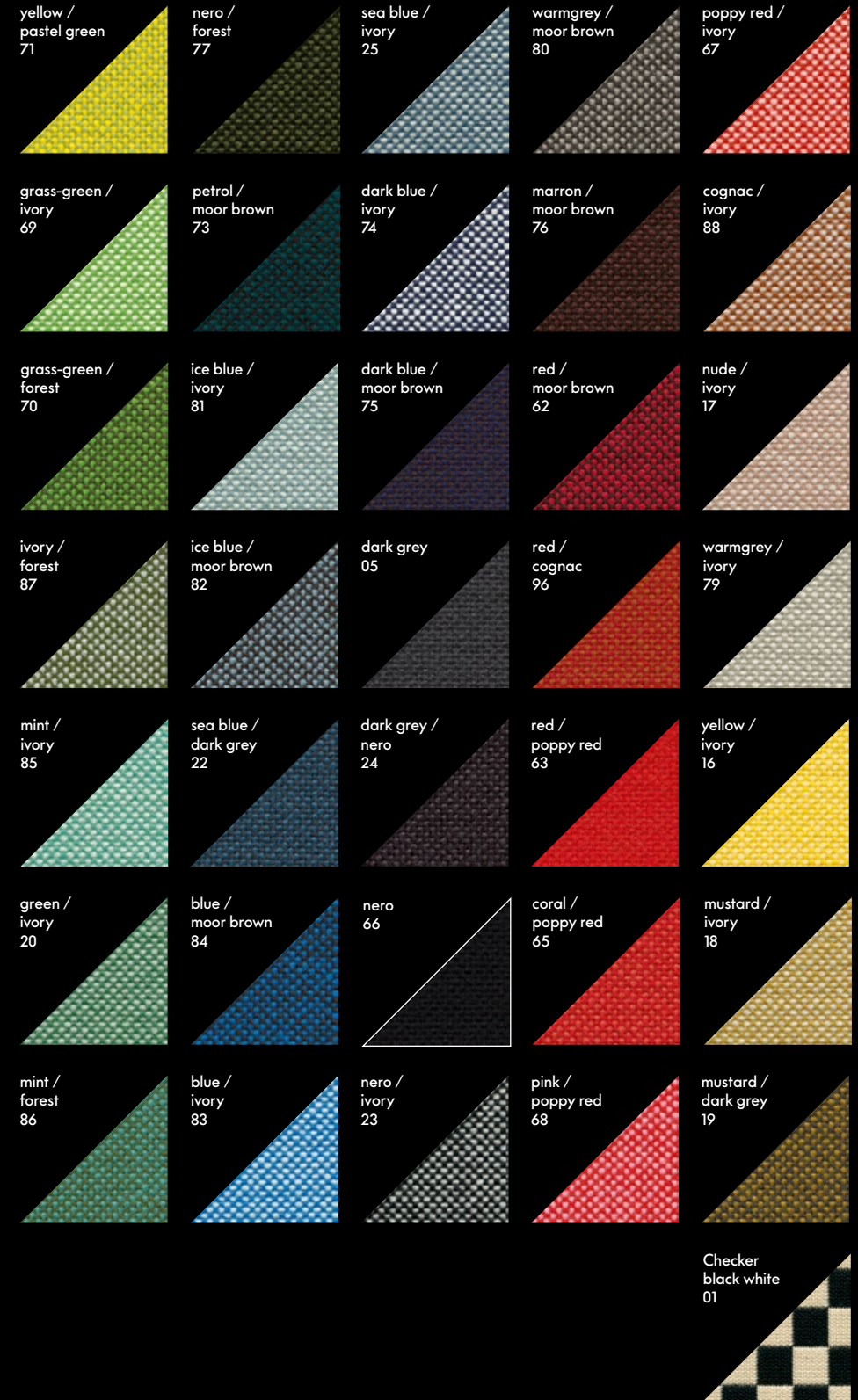


Upholstery

Upholstery

Choose the cover colour

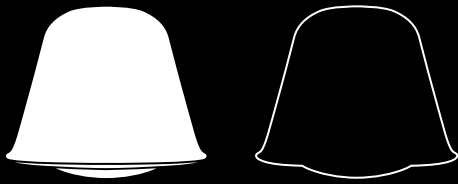
Upholstery colours



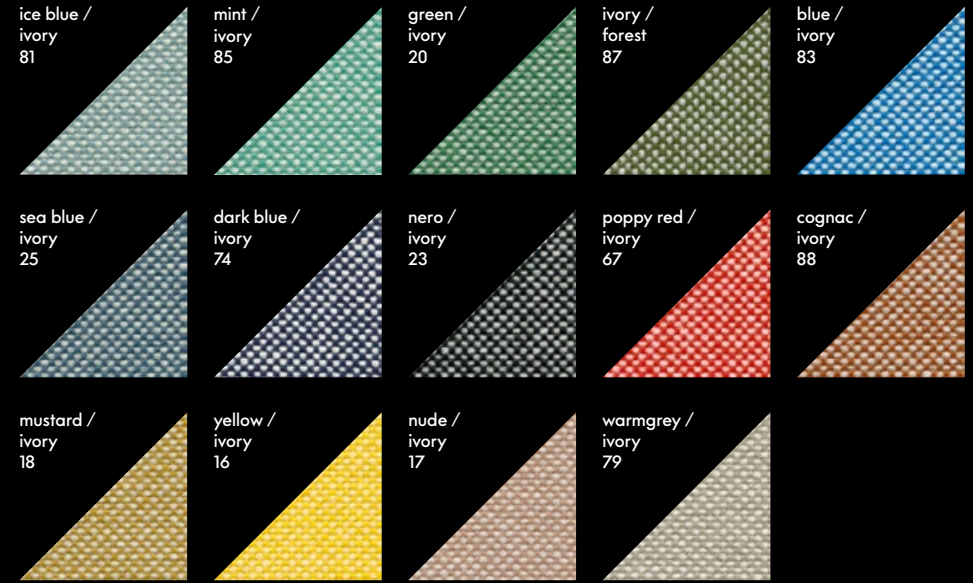
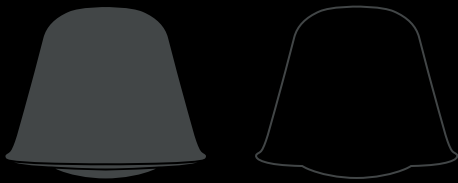
Upholstery colours

Or select a predefined colour combination

white shell -
white piping



black shell -
black piping





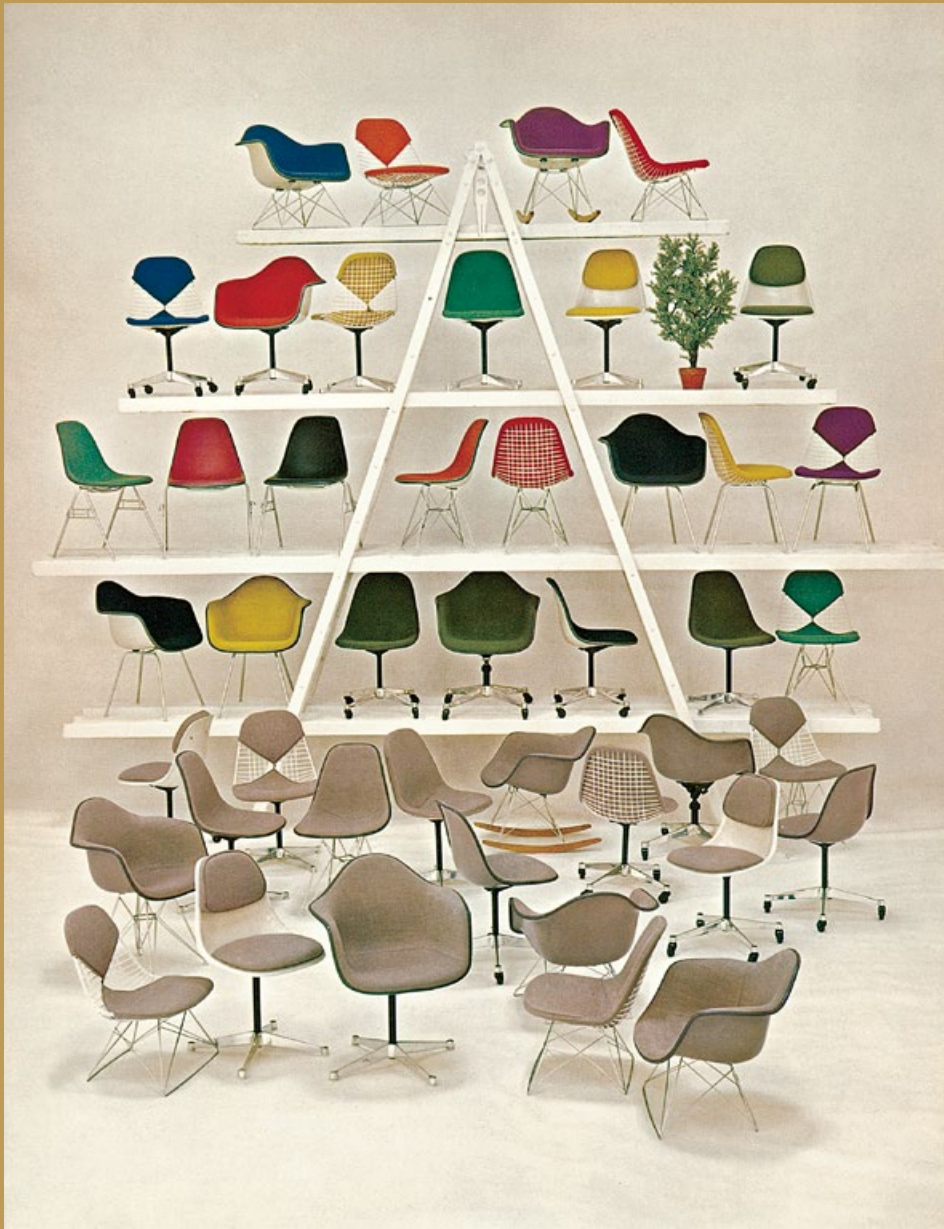
Did you know that the Eames shell chairs were the first three dimensional shell chairs to be successfully mass-produced with seat and back in only one piece?

Before their creation in 1950, most chairs were produced in wood, with seat and back as two separate components.

Did you know that Charles and Ray Eames were the first designers to create fibre-glass with integral colours?

Charles and Ray Eames were the first to develop dyes for fibreglass. Up until that time, paint had been applied to the finished surface – but no one before them had coloured the fibreglass resin with integral dyes.





Did you know that this was the first chair system to be developed for so many different uses?

With the relaunch of the Fiberglass Chair and continuing production of the Plastic Chair, Vitra now offers more than 100,000 possible combinations.

The Eames Shell Chair

For many years, Charles and Ray Eames explored the idea of a single chair shell moulded to fit the contours of the human body. They finally achieved their goal with the 1948 design of the Eames shell chair, a ground-breaking innovation that established a new seating typology: the multi-functional chair combining a single seat shell and variable bases. The chairs quickly became ubiquitous in homes, offices and public spaces alike, and the Eames design came to inspire generations. While the Eames shell chair's variants and materials evolved over time, its design concept has stayed relevant for seven decades.

1950 The Eames shell chairs are launched on the market as the Fiberglass Armchair and Fiberglass Side Chair, in combination with several different bases. First available in the versions LAR, RAR, SAX and LAX, the chairs are initially offered with shells in three colours specially developed by the Eameses: greige, elephant-hide grey and parchment. Later the colour palette is expanded to include sea foam green, lemon yellow and red, along with a choice of several more bases: DAR, DSR, DAX, DSX, DAW and DSW. Each three-letter acronym refers to the height of the chair, the shell type (armchair or side chair) and the type of base.

1951 The Eames Wire Chair is introduced, repeating the shape of the Fiberglass Side Chair in a different material. The Eames Fiberglass Side Chair becomes available with upholstery.

1953 An upholstered version of the Eames Fiberglass Armchair is marketed.

1954 Eames Stadium Seating is developed as a prototype.

1955 The Eames Stacking Side Chair (DSS) is launched. Introduction of the Eames Pivoting Armchair and Pivoting Side Chair on a contract (cast aluminium) base (PACC, PSCC).

1960 The following shell colours are introduced to the market: navy blue, seal brown, raw umber, ochre light, olive green dark and red orange.

Over the next years, bolder colours are added to the collection.

1961 For New York's La Fonda del Sol restaurant designed by Alexander Girard, Charles and Ray Eames modify the shape of the fibreglass shells and create the new La Fonda base.

1963 Launch of the Eames Tandem Shell Seating.

1970 Charles and Ray Eames produce the film: "The Fiberglass Chairs: Something of How They Get the Way They Are".

1990 Vitra initiates the first commercial launch of La Chaise, a reclining piece designed by Charles and Ray Eames at the same time as the Fiberglass Chairs in the late 1940s.

1993 Vitra discontinues production of the fibreglass shells for reasons of occupational safety and ecology.

1998 In close collaboration with the Eames Office, the Eames shell chairs are reintroduced with shells made of polypropylene, a thermoplastic polymer that satisfies technical demands in regard to shape, strength and resilience. The substitution of polypropylene for fibreglass makes it possible to manufacture the Eames shell chairs with more affordable production techniques.

2018 Thanks to a new high-tech production process, Vitra reintroduces the Eames Fiberglass Chairs in close

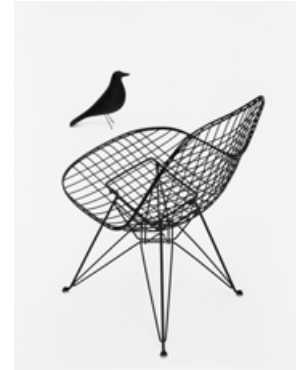
cooperation with Eames Demetrios, grandson of Charles and Ray Eames and Director of the Eames Office. The new colour selection is based on the original hues designed by the Eameses in the early 1950s. Together with Demetrios, Vitra researched the vintage colours of the Eames fibreglass shells in the holdings of the Vitra Design Museum.

2019 Vitra extends the repair and service offer with the exchange of shells and bases for the Fiberglass and Plastic Chairs and introduces a take-back program, which will ensure the chairs to be properly recycled at the end of their life.

New colour range process
The 2019 colour update creates a new link between the Eames Fiberglass Chairs and the Eames Plastic Chairs. In an extensive process of research and analysis, the historical Eames colours have inspired a harmonious palette that emphasises the affinity of the two chair groups. The result is a rich spectrum of hues highlighting the special properties of the different materials. The interplay of vibrant and more subtle colours makes it easy to combine Eames Plastic Chairs and Eames Fiberglass Chairs. The new colour range for the shells and Hopsak cover fabric was developed in close collaboration with the Eames Office.



1950



1951



1953



1954



1955



1960



1961



1963



1970



1990



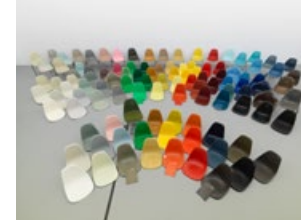
1993



1998



2018



2019

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