

OLE WANSCHER

FURNITURE DESIGNER, PROFESSOR AND AUTHOR

Danish furniture designer and professor Ole Wanscher (1903-1985) is considered one of the leading designers in the Scandinavian furniture tradition. His classic, minimalist approach played a key role in establishing the international reputation of Danish furniture craftsmanship in the postwar era.

Ole Wanscher is especially renowned for his Colonial Chair (1949) and his Egyptian Chair (1957) – pieces that showcase his penchant for minimalist design with slender proportions and a respect for natural materials.

Ole Wanscher was born in Copenhagen in 1903, the son of art historian Vilhelm Wanscher and artist Laura Wanscher. In 1925, he began working for furniture designer Kaare Klint in his design studio while also studying under Klint at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts' Furniture School. Wanscher worked for Klint for two years, then opened his own design studio specializing in furniture design in 1928.

From 1931 to 1936, Wanscher taught furniture design at the then School of Arts and Crafts in Copenhagen. Following Kaare Klint's death in 1954, Wanscher was appointed professor at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts' Furniture School, where he continued teaching until 1973. Wanscher hence exerted a major influence on Danish furniture design not only as an active designer, but also as a teacher.

The period from the 40s to the early 60s is considered Wanscher's golden era; it was then that he created his most influential pieces. Wanscher viewed furniture design as a branch of architecture, with proportion and form as the cornerstones of his design philosophy. He also had a keen interest in industrial, mass-produced furniture of high quality, which inspired several of his designs.

Wanscher's academic background allowed him to combine his knowledge of architecture with practical furniture design and craftsmanship. He drew a great deal of inspiration from his countless trips to Egypt and throughout Europe. This passion led him to write several books on the topic, including "Møbelkunstens Historie i Oversigt" ("Historical Overview of Furniture Design," 1941) and "Møblets Æstetik" ("The Aesthetics of Furniture," 1985). Over the course of his long career, Wanscher received many grants and honors, including Knight, First Class, of the Danish Order of the Dannebrog.

Today, Wanscher's designs are considered modern classics, notable for their rarely seen degree of detail and deep respect for the chosen materials. The minimalist interpretation of classic shapes according to modern needs for functionality was characteristic of his design approach. Ole Wanscher's furniture radiates a subdued elegance that is simultaneously timeless, classic and thoroughly modern.



OW149-2 + OW449 COLONIAL WITH CHARACTER

Ole Wanscher's signature design is, without a doubt, his sophisticated Colonial Chair.
Carl Hansen & Søn is now reintroducing the other classic designs in the series – the Colonial Sofa and the Colonial Coffee Table. The launch restores the Colonial as a furniture series in which Wanscher's minimalist, functional approach is at the center of a complete story told through a unified visual expression.

Few people know that Ole Wanscher also designed the Colonial Chair as a two-seater sofa. The sofa, however, was only produced in small quantities. The armchair dates back to 1949, while the sofa was first introduced in 1964. The third element of the relaunched series is a coffee table executed in a simple, timeless design with a square tabletop.

Based on the same core design as the armchair, the sofa clearly reflects Wanscher's fondness for the delicate and refined, as well as for his fascination with furniture design from 18th century England and bygone colonial times. He wished to create furniture that paid tribute to classic conservative trends but also stood the test of time, and was so successful in achieving this balance that the Colonial Chair remains his best-known furniture design to this day.

The sofa features a relatively simple lattice construction, its elements supporting one another. The double center legs give it the necessary strength. The sofa's slender dimensions are kept minimal, its strength achieved instead through a well-conceived structure. Despite their sculptured form, the individual components come together in simple joints, as no two surfaces lie on the same plane.

All the design transitions are visually well defined. The front and back legs are made of roundwood timber, while the armrest cross-sections form slender ellipses that taper into a refined curved profile. The sophisticated, slightly curved armrests rise to a point before taking a vertical turn downwards – a well-known feature of Wanscher's design.



OLE WANSCHER

COLL FCTION





COLONIAL CHAIR OW149

The Colonial Chair is Ole Wanscher's best-known chair. Designed in 1949, it graces museums the world over. With its elegant finish, it is ideal for any room where you would like to create an airy and inviting look and feel. Despite its beautiful, lightweight construction the chair is extremely strong and durable. The Colonia Chair is available in mahogany, cherry, walnut and oak, while the cushions come in a range of fabrics and leathers



COLONIAL SOFA OW149-2

The Colonial Sofa, Ole Wanscher's reinterpretation of the Colonial Chair, was first introduced in 1964. It completes the series in the living room, but can also stand alone as a functional statement piece in a hall or a hotel lobby. The sofa comes with loose cushions and the seat moves freely on the frame, which has a cotton webbing base. Like the Colonial Chair, the sofa is available in mahogany, cherry, walnut and oak with either fabric or leather cushions.

COLONIAL FOOTREST OW149F

Designed in 1949, the Colonial Footrest perfectly complements the Colonial Chair with its simple, lightweight design. Very stable and featuring an elegant finish, the footrest can stand on its own in a hall or bedroom. Like the Colonial Chair, it features a handwoven seat. The Colonial Footrest is available in mahogany, cherry, walnut and oak. The cushions come in a range of fabrics and leathers.



COLONIAL COFFEE TABLE OW449

The Colonial Series also includes a coffee table that Wanscher designed in 1964. The classic table's simple, timeless design supports the Colonial Series' visual expression and provides a harmonious focal point for the entire series. Available in oak and walnut, the coffee table features a square veneer tabletop.



DAYBED OW150

A classic daybed with a very clean expression and a sublime finish. The base is made of handwoven cotton webbing while the frame itself is solid oak. The mattress and cushion are upholstered in fabric or leather. Designed by Ole Wanscher in 1949.



EGYPTIAN CHAIR OW2000

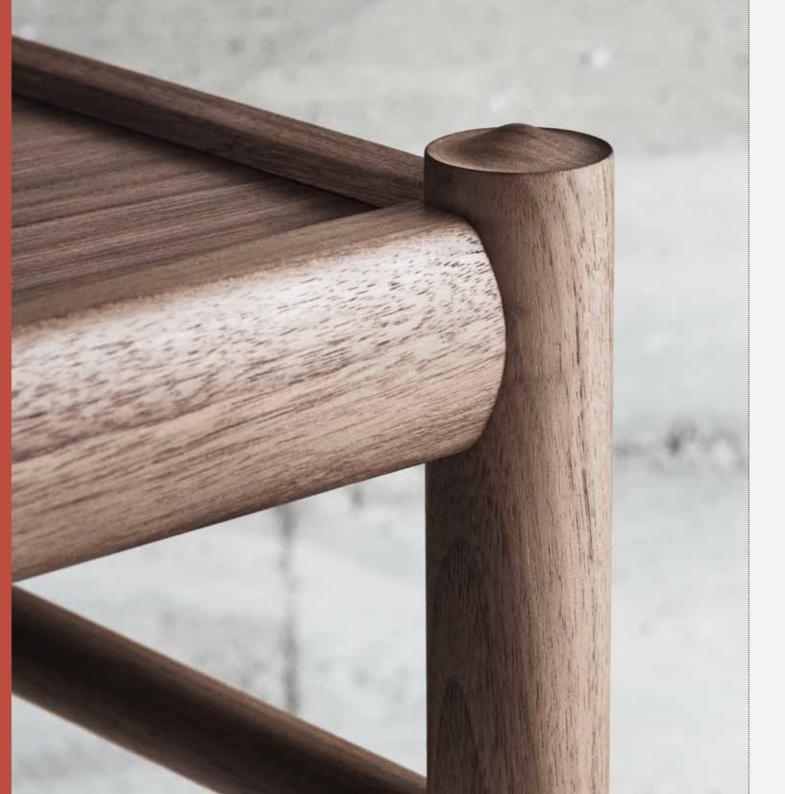
Ole Wanscher drew inspiration from furniture in the temples of Thebes in Egypt when he designed the Egyptian Chair in 1957. The chairs from the Egyptian kingdom expressed power and grace, and Wanscher succeeded in recreating precisely that look in his elegant, lightweight design. The seat is made of saddle leather. When folded, the seat easily collapses into the chair. The Egyptian Chair is available in oak or mahogany.



OLE WANSCHER SOFA OW602, OW603

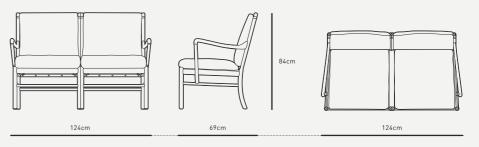
The Ole Wanscher Sofa is a Danish design classic from 1960 inspired by English and Oriental furniture design. The beautiful sofa is handmade over a beech frame and has upholstered cushions. The sofa is made of oak and upholstered in fabric or leather.

Available as a two- or three-seater.



0W149-2 OLE WANSCHER 1964

Like the Colonial Chair, the Colonial Sofa comes in walnut, cherry, oak and mahogany with a lacquered, soap or oil finish. The sofa is available with fabric or leather cushions.



FRAME Walnut, Cherry, oak or mahogany SEAT/BACK Fabric or leather

OW449 OLE WANSCHER 1964

The Colonial Coffee Table is available in oak and walnut with a veneer top in matching wood.



FRAME Walnut and oak
SEAT/BACK Fabric or leather

0W149-2 + 0W449	· ·	O/ 11	LACQUER	OIL
OAK		•	•	•
WALNUT			•	•
CHERRY*			•	•
MAHOGANY*			•	•

^{*}Oak is available only in black. Beech is available in all colors.

