

# Wire Chair

Charles & Ray Eames, 1951



**vitra.**

# Wire Chair

Charles & Ray Eames, 1951



Steel wire had proven itself in various bases developed by Charles and Ray Eames for the fibreglass seat shells and tables.

The designer couple then decided to apply the material's filigree transparency and visual lightness paired with a high load-bearing capacity to the shell construction itself.

An orthogonal structure, the spot-welding technique and the binding of the wires along the outer edge between two stronger wires yielded a stable and robust shell form.

The use of a single material gives the Wire Chair its unified appearance.



Designed by Charles and Ray Eames out of welded steel wire, the Wire Chair is a variation on the theme of the organically shaped one-piece seat shell, combining transparent lightness with technical sophistication. The seat shell can be joined with a variety of different bases and optionally fitted with a seat cushion or a

two-piece seat and back pad. The latter is also known as the 'Bikini' pad due to its shape – it comes in a fabric or leather version with a wide choice of colours and is permanently attached to the chair. It is additionally available as the removable 'Bikini Outdoor' model made of weather-resistant fabric for use in exterior settings.

The Wire Chairs have a powder-coated finish; some models are also available in a chrome-plated version. All models with a powder-coated finish – except the DKW with wooden legs – may also be used outdoors.

#### Materials

- **Upholstery:** unupholstered, with seat cushion, with classic seat and back pad or with Bikini Outdoor.
- **Classic seat and back pad:** in fabric or leather. For the back pad in leather, the rear is always covered in Plano fabric, except for the version in leather snow, which is used on both the front and back.

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Wood Base



Wire Chair  
DKW

Rod Base



Wire Chair  
DKR



Wire Chair  
DKR-5



Wire Chair  
DKR 2



Wire Chair  
LKR



Wire Chair  
LKR 5



Wire Chair  
LKR 2

La Fonda Base



Wire Chair  
DKR-5

Tube Base



Wire Chair  
DKW 2



Wire Chair  
DKL



Wire Chair  
DKK 5



Wire Chair  
DKK 2



Wire Chair  
Stool Medium



Wire Chair  
Stool High







## Dining

The seat height of the Wire Chair has been adapted to today's requirements, making it ideally suited for use around contemporary dining tables. Thanks to a multitude of possible configurations – with bases in wood or metal finished in chrome or powder coating, and cushions in a wide range of colour options – the perfect Wire Chair can be found for every setting.

## Restaurants

Due to the robust quality of the Wire Chair in all its different versions, it not only provides ideal seating options for the home, but also for restaurants, canteens and cafeterias.

## Materials

- **DKX:** Dining Height K-Wire Shell X-Base
- **Seat shell:** bent and welded steel wire, chrome-plated or powder-coated.
- **Base:** four-legged tubular steel base, surface finish matched to seat shell. Fitted with plastic glides for carpet; felt glides for hard floors optionally available.
- **DKR:** Dining Height K-Wire Shell Rod Base
- **Seat shell:** bent and welded steel wire, chrome-plated or powder-coated.
- **Base:** four-legged base with cross struts, surface finish matched to seat shell. Fitted with plastic glides for carpet; felt glides for hard floors optionally available.
- **DKL:** Dining Height K-Wire La Fonda Base
- **Seat shell:** bent and welded steel wire, chrome-plated or powder-coated finish.
- **Base:** La Fonda base in die-cast aluminium, polished or powder-coated finish.

## DKX, DKR, DKL Outdoor use

**DKX, DKR, DKL Outdoor use**  
unupholstered (classic upholstery) version with powder-coated base suitable for utilisation outdoors on a temporary or seasonal basis, following care instructions. After prolonged exposure to the elements, clean and store away in a dry, sheltered place to ensure lasting use and avoid any deterioration in appearance.

- **DKW:** Dining Height K-Wire Shell Wood-Base
- **Seat shell:** bent and welded steel wire, powder-coated in basic dark.
- **Base:** solid maple with stained finish, steel rod cross struts. Fitted with plastic glides for carpet; felt glides for hard floors optionally available.

**Origin of wood:** maple (Acer platanoides) from Western Europe and/or Poland.



## Public spaces

Thanks to the strong, robust quality of the Wire Chair, which is constructed from premium spot-welded steel wire, it is suited for a wide range of applications in public spaces. This is demonstrated in many existing projects, such as the Wire Chair beam seating in the bus shelter on the Vitra Campus in Weil am Rhein.

## Conference and meeting rooms

The iconic Wire Chairs provide an ideal solution for conference venues, meeting areas, media rooms and other spaces in which a unique aesthetic atmosphere is desired.

## Materials

- **DKX:** Dining Height K-Wire Shell X-Base
- **Seat shell:** bent and welded steel wire, chrome-plated or powder-coated.
- **Base:** four-legged tubular steel base, surface finish matched to seat shell. Fitted with plastic glides for carpet; felt glides for hard floors optionally available.
- **DKR:** Dining Height K-Wire Shell Rod Base
- **Seat shell:** bent and welded steel wire, chrome-plated or powder-coated.
- **Base:** four-legged base with cross struts, surface finish matched to seat shell. Fitted with plastic glides for carpet; felt glides for hard floors optionally available.
- **DKL:** Dining Height K-Wire La Fonda Base
- **Seat shell:** bent and welded steel wire, chrome-plated or powder-coated finish.
- **Base:** La Fonda base in die-cast aluminium, polished or powder-coated finish.

## DKX, DKL, LKR, Outdoor use

**DKX, DKL, LKR, Outdoor use**  
unupholstered (classic upholstery) version with powder-coated base suitable for utilisation outdoors on a temporary or seasonal basis, following care instructions. After prolonged exposure to the elements, clean and store away in a dry, sheltered place to ensure lasting use and avoid any deterioration in appearance.

- **DKW:** Dining Height K-Wire Shell Wood-Base
- **Seat shell:** bent and welded steel wire, powder-coated in basic dark.
- **Base:** solid maple with stained finish, steel rod cross struts. Fitted with plastic glides for carpet; felt glides for hard floors optionally available.

**Origin of wood:** maple (Acer platanoides) from Western Europe and/or Poland.









The Shell Chairs by Charles and Ray Eames are counted among the most important furniture designs of the twentieth century. Made from welded steel wire, the Wire Chair is a variation on the theme of the organically shaped seat shell, embodying transparency and technical sophistication. The four-legged base of the Eames Wire Stools comes in a choice of two heights: medium for standard kitchen counters and high for standing-height tables. The base is equipped with a footrest and has a chrome-plated or black powder-coated finish. The Wire Stools are available either without upholstery, with a seat cushion or with a two-piece seat and back pad. The latter is also known as the 'Bikini' pad due to its shape. In the versions without upholstery, the Wire Stools are also suited for outdoor use.

#### Wire Chair Stool Medium

- **Seat shell:** bent and welded steel wire, chrome-plated or powder-coated.
- **Base:** tubular steel, chrome-plated or powder-coated, non-stackable. Height of seat front edge: 700 mm; ideal for use at counters and tables 95 to 100 cm in height (without seat cushion). The powder-coated version may show signs of abrasion on the footrest due to the anti-slip coating.

#### Wire Chair Stool High

- **Seat shell:** bent and welded steel wire, chrome-plated or powder-coated.
- **Base:** tubular steel, chrome-plated or powder-coated, non-stackable. Height of seat front edge: 820 mm; ideal for use at counters and tables 110 to 115 cm in height (without seat cushion). The powder-coated version may show signs of abrasion on the footrest due to the anti-slip coating.



Stool Medium

Stool High

Stool Medium



#### Outdoor

The DKR and DKX models of the Wire Chair in a powder-coated finish, without cushions, are suited for use in outdoor areas and wet zones. Powder-coated versions are available in the colours black or cream. With its light and airy form, the Wire Chair adds an understated yet distinctive accent to naturalistic gardens as well as modern terraces.

#### Materials

- **DKL:** Dining Height K-Wire La Fonda Base
- **Seat shell:** bent and welded steel wire, chrome-plated or powder-coated finish.
- **Base:** four-legged base with cross struts, surface finish matched to seat shell. Fitted with plastic glides for carpet; felt glides for hard floors optionally available.

- **LKR:** Lounge Height K-Wire Shell, Rod base.
- **Seat shell:** bent and welded steel wire, chrome-plated or powder-coated.
- **Base:** wire base with cross struts, chrome-plated or powder-coated finish. Surface finish matched to seat shell. Seat height 260 mm.

- **DKR, LKR, DKL Outdoor use**
- **DKR, LKR, DKL Outdoor use**

unupholstered (classic upholstery) version with powder-coated base suitable for utilisation outdoors on a temporary or seasonal basis, following care instructions. After prolonged exposure to the elements, clean and store away in a dry, sheltered place to ensure lasting use and avoid any deterioration in appearance.



Stool High

DKR

DKL

DKX

LKR







## Cushions

The Wire Chair can be optionally fitted with a seat cushion or with a combined seat-and-back cushion – also known as the 'Bikini' due to its shape.

The cover material of the Bikini pad is available in fabric or leather. The cushions are stretched over the edge of the frame and held snugly in place with an elastic band and simple hook attachments; a button on the back provides an elegant closure.

The shape of the seat cushion is adapted to the geometry of the chair's shell. Its moulded wood core is padded and covered with fabric or leather.



## Materials

- Upholstery:** unupholstered, with seat cushion, with classic seat and back pad or with Bikini Outdoor.
- Classic seat and back pad:** in fabric or leather. For the back pad in leather, the rear is always covered in Plano fabric, except for the version in leather snow, which is used on both the front and back.

Covers are available in Hopsak fabric or leather. Hopsak comes in 35 colours; leather is offered in 30 different colours. Plano fabric is used for the reverse side of leather cushions.

## A world of colours

In collaboration with Dutch designer Hella Jongerius, Vitra has developed a broad palette of hues for its upholstery materials, allowing countless possible colour combinations.



## Soft Seats

Available in three shapes, the Soft Seats by Vitra are made of a recyclable thermopressed fleece and provide soft comfort on unupholstered chairs - including outdoors with the Soft Seats Outdoor version.

### Indoor:

Available in 11 cover fabrics, 2 leather options and numerous colours.

### Outdoor:

Available in Simmons cover fabric with a choice of 3 colours.

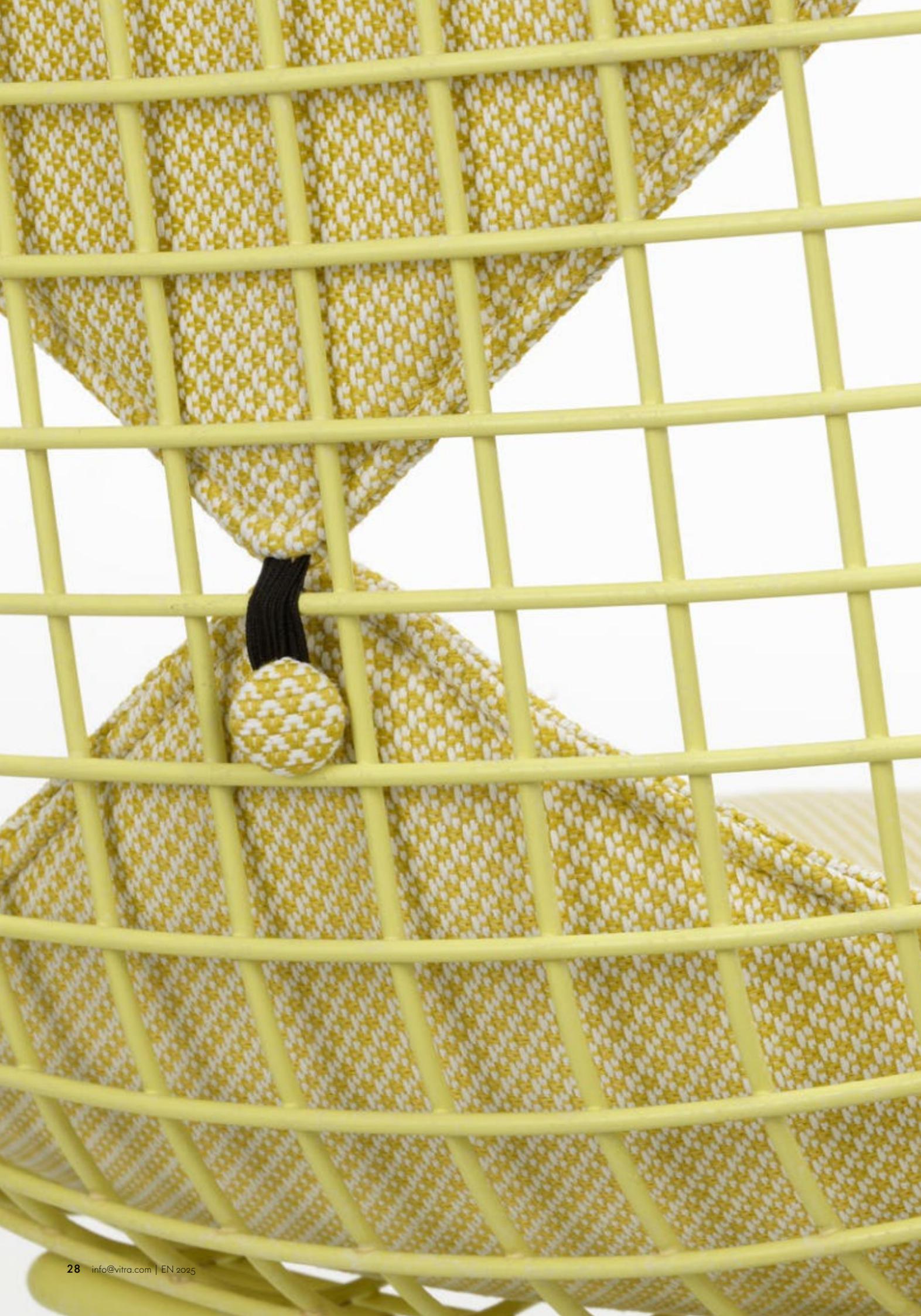
**Please use for the Wire Chair the types B and C.**

 **Outdoor use:** suitable for utilisation outdoors on a temporary or seasonal basis, following care instructions. After prolonged exposure to the elements, clean and store away in a cool, dry place to ensure lasting use and avoid any deterioration in appearance.

**Note:** always with non-slip fabric on reverse side.







## Outdoor Bikini

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Equipped with a clip system, the Bikini Outdoor is easily removed for cleaning or replacement. As both its fabric and padding are weather-resistant, the powder-coated Wire Chairs may also be used with a Bikini in outdoor environments. The Bikini Outdoor can be ordered separately and easily attached to the seat. The Wire Chair DKW model is not suitable for exterior settings due to its wooden legs.

In addition to the removable Bikini Outdoor, there is also a classic version of the pad which comes attached to the chair and is comfortably form-fitted to the wire construction. Their covers are available in fabric or leather with a wide selection of colours.

### Materials

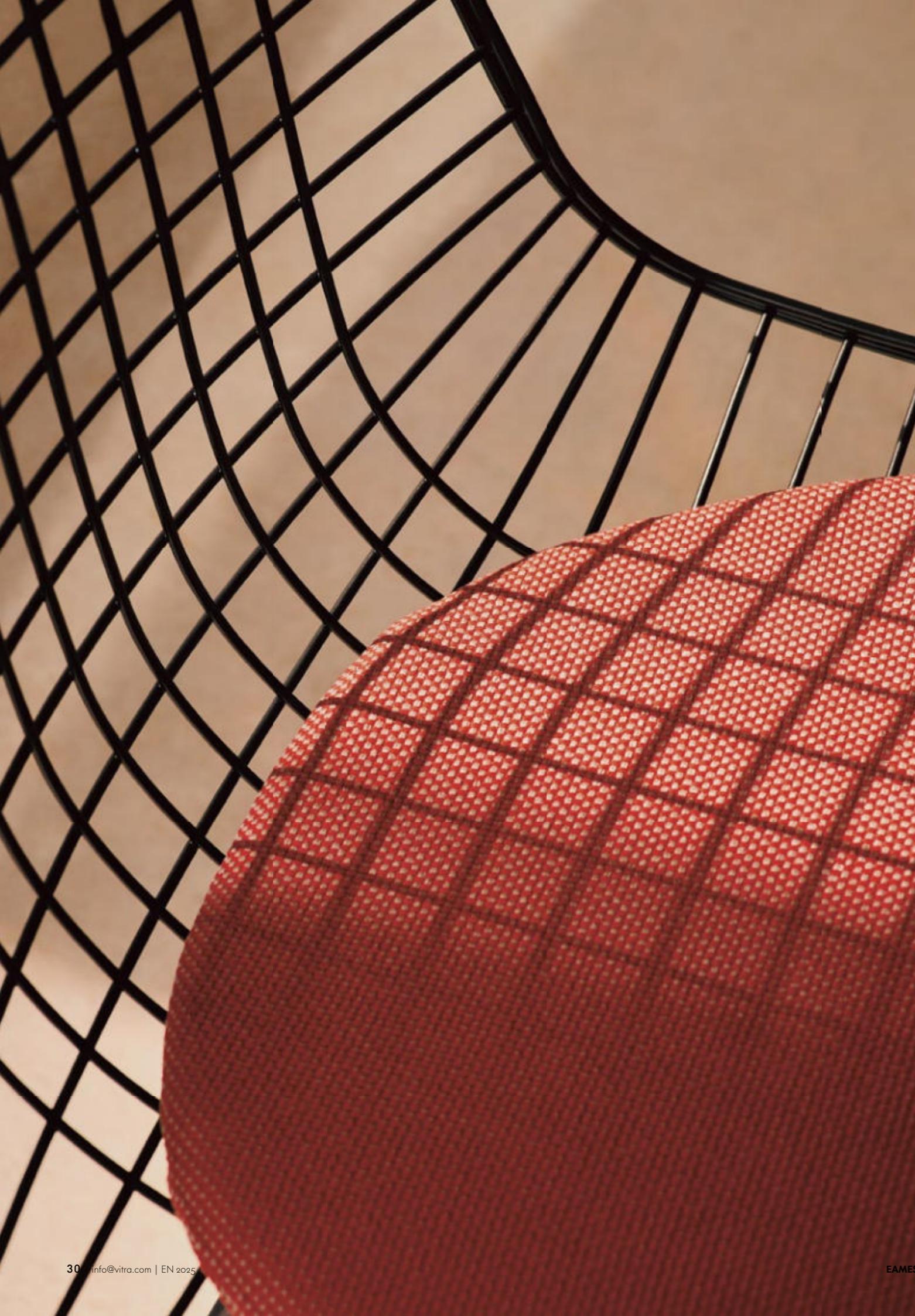
- **Upholstery:** quick-drying, antibacterial padding for outdoor use made of polyurethane foam, resistant to light, water and mould, 2-cm thick (Oeko-Tex).

- **Cover:** quick-drying outdoor fabric, washable at 30°C on a delicate cycle.

### • Outdoor use:

- **Bikini Outdoor:** quick-drying, antibacterial padding for outdoor use made of polyurethane foam, resistant to light, water and mould (Oeko-Tex), easy to attach and remove from chair. Cover made of quick-drying outdoor fabric, washable at 30°C on a delicate cycle.





## Sustainable materials

### Recycled aluminium



Alongside steel, aluminium is the metal most frequently used in Vitra's product portfolio. The production of recycled aluminium consumes only around 5% of the energy required for the extraction and processing of primary aluminium. All Vitra products that contain aluminium therefore include a substantial proportion of recycled material, which is being continually increased wherever technically feasible. The La Fonda base, for instance, contains 95% recycled aluminium. More than 90% of Vitra's aluminium components are sourced from suppliers in Europe.

### Vegetable-tanned leather



Vegetable-tanned leather is produced in a tanning process that involves treating animal hides with plant extracts instead of heavy metals. This is the oldest and most environmentally friendly way to preserve leather.

At Vitra, leathers marked with an 'F' (for 'free') are tanned using a tanning agent made from olive tree leaves – a waste product of the olive harvest. Throughout the entire process, the use of chemicals is kept to a minimum and only non-hazardous substances are applied. The olive leaf extract is a vegetable-based syrup whose production helps to reduce CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions, as the leaves are no longer burned after the harvest but collected and processed at the place of origin.



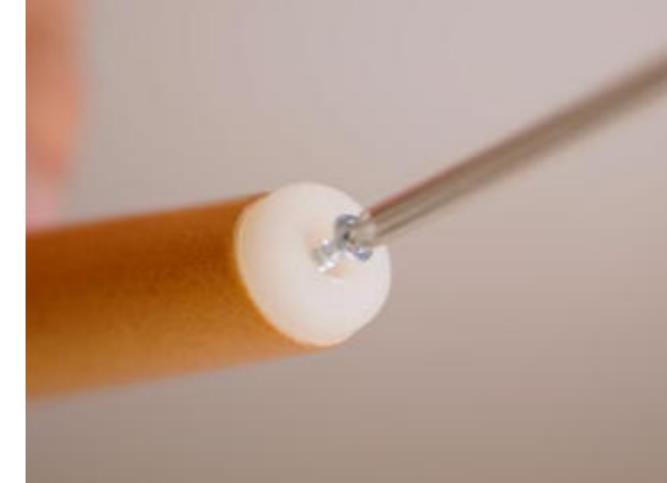
‘Vitra’s greatest contribution to sustainability is its products with an above-average service life, which omit everything superfluous. Our roots in modern design would allow nothing else.’

Nora Fehlbaum, CEO of Vitra

The close and long-standing collaboration with Charles and Ray Eames has shaped Vitra in significant ways. Carrying on the tradition of thinking espoused by the designer couple, the company places emphasis on the durability and longevity of products as part of its contribution to sustainable development, and avoids stylistic trends. This is most clearly exemplified by the classic designs in Vitra’s portfolio, whose lasting functionality and timeless aesthetic keep them up to date and in active use for decades. They retain their value on the secondary market, changing owners and perhaps even ending up in a collection.

To ensure that Vitra products remain in circulation for as long as possible, they are designed in a manner that facilitates their reuse and recycling. Repairs, returns and extended guarantees support their longevity. And used Vitra products are refurbished and put back into circulation in Vitra Circle Stores.

Selected spare parts that can be easily replaced are available in our online shop. These include castors and glides for a broad number of our task chairs and chairs, and suited to different floor types. The spare parts finder at [vitra.com/spareparts](http://vitra.com/spareparts) allows effortless identification of the correct parts for your product. The replacement process is explained step by step in a short video.



For all other replacement parts, please use [Find Vitra](#) to locate an authorized dealer near you or contact us directly using the contact form. Please be aware that for safety reasons we cannot offer all available spare parts for direct purchase and delivery to end customers, as some require replacement by trained professionals.



## Take-Back-Programme

Vitra launched a Take-Back-Programme in 2019 for its family of Eames Shell Chairs: Eames Fiberglass Chairs, Eames Plastic Chairs and Eames Wire Chairs that are no longer in use can be returned to Vitra – worldwide, regardless of when they were produced. The service is intended for customers who cannot or do not wish to resell or dispose of their product themselves. The returned chairs may consist of still usable or repairable products that can be resold, or heavily damaged products that require correct recycling. If you have any products you wish to return via the Vitra Take-Back-Programme, please write to: [circular@vitra.com](mailto:circular@vitra.com)



Vitra products are designed and constructed to last as long as possible and this quality promise guides every decision in Vitra's product development and manufacturing processes.

Vitra guarantees the longevity of selected products with a limited manufacturer warranty of ten- to thirty- years as per warranty terms listed below. The Vitra Product Warranty is part of the company's commitment to sustainability.

The date of purchase may not be earlier than 1 January 2024

Product was purchased from Vitra or its authorised dealers/retailers by a private customer\*

Product is listed in section 1.b of the full warranty terms and conditions

Registration within six months of purchase at [my.vitra.com](https://my.vitra.com)

\*With the exception of Eames Aluminium Group & Soft Pad Group products, which can be registered by private and business end-customers.



With the Circle Stores, Vitra puts sustainable management principles into practice by giving its products a second life. Since mid-October 2023, a new Circle Store has been located on the Vitra Campus in Weil am Rhein, joining existing sites in Brussels and Amsterdam. Find all Vitra Circle Stores: [www.vitracircle.com](http://www.vitracircle.com).



When the pertinent legal and conceptual conditions are met, one can speak of a design original.

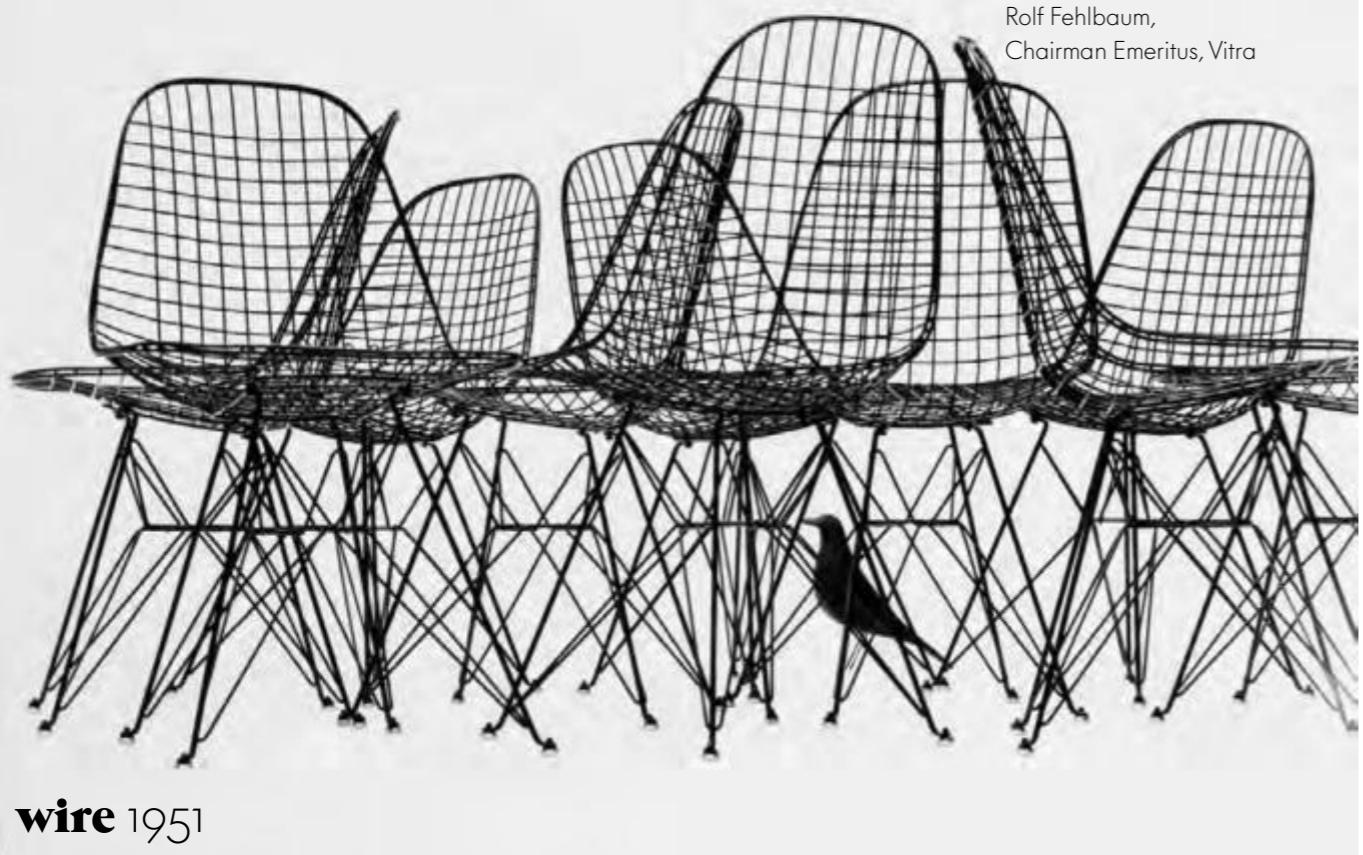
This term means that a design – independent of its production date – was fabricated by the authorised manufacturer in the true spirit of the designer. These factors guarantee its authenticity.

The status of an original is determined by the relationship between the designer (or rightful heirs) and the manufacturer of the designer's products. There is not only a legal component to this relationship, but also an immaterial one based on shared ideals and collaboration.

For any product to be designated as an 'original', the designer must have given the manufacturer the authorisation to produce it. Anyone who produces a design without legal permission is appropriating property that belongs to someone else. This applies not only to the manufacturer, but also to the consumer who buys an unlicensed product.

Equally important is the creative connection between the designer and manufacturer. It is evident in their close cooperation at every step of the production process. Because the plagiarist does not have this relationship, there is always uncertainty about the degree to which the copy deviates from the original idea, whether for reasons of ignorance, carelessness or cost reduction.

Rolf Fehlbaum,  
Chairman Emeritus, Vitra

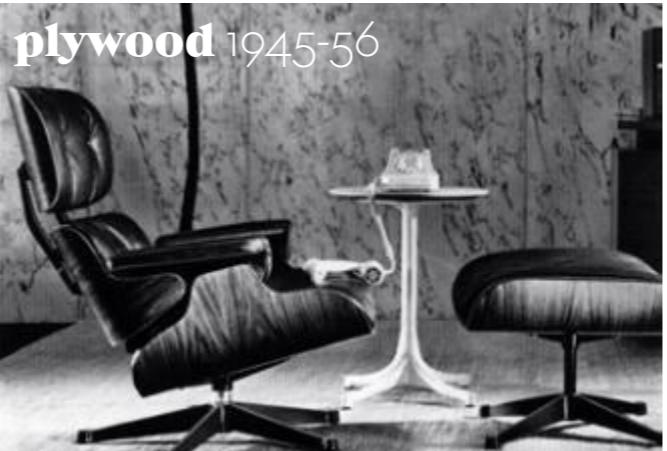


**wire** 1951

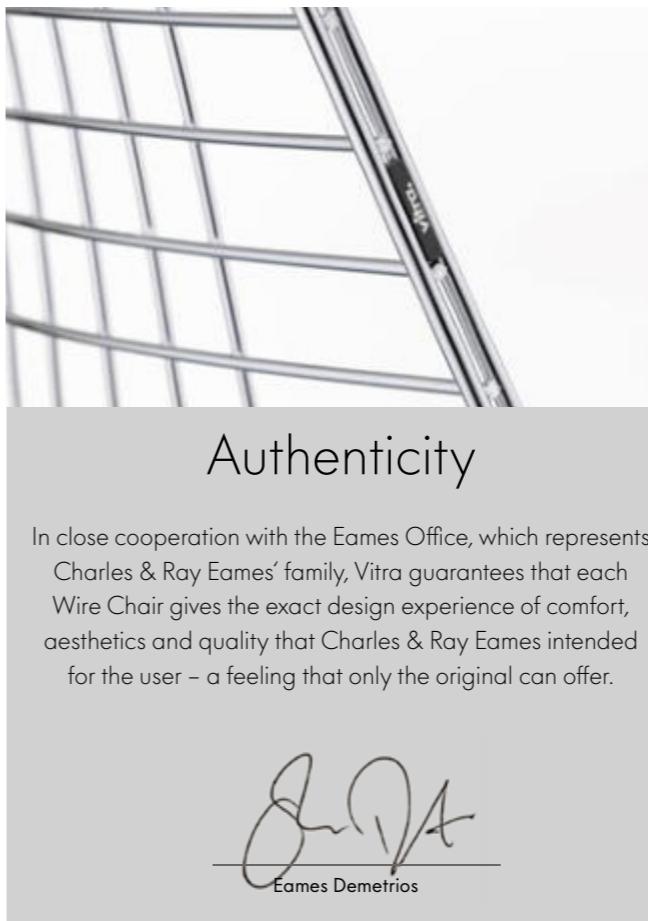
**plastic** 1948-61



**plywood** 1945-56



EAMES WIRE CHAIR



## Authenticity

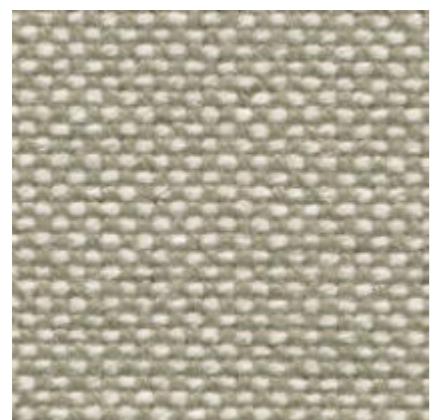
In close cooperation with the Eames Office, which represents Charles & Ray Eames' family, Vitra guarantees that each Wire Chair gives the exact design experience of comfort, aesthetics and quality that Charles & Ray Eames intended for the user – a feeling that only the original can offer.

Eames Demetrios



**aluminium** 1958-69

## Hopsak Medium use, F60



Hopsak is an expressive, flat plain-weave fabric made of polyamide. The duotone colours offer a multitude of design possibilities in high-contrast, brightly hued or subtle combinations of warp and weft threads. Highly durable and robust, Hopsak can be used in private interiors as well as public areas.

Hopsak is available in 35 colours.

## Hopsak



## Checker Residential use,



The soft double weave fabric, with a high percentage of cotton, demonstrates exceptional purity of colour and its geometric pattern lends a striking note to any environment.

## Checker



Material	23% polyester, 77% cotton
Weight	467 g/m <sup>2</sup> (13.8 oz/y <sup>2</sup> )
Width	140 cm (55")
Abrasion resistance	20,000 Martindale
Fastness to light	Type 6
Pilling	Grade 4-5
Fastness to rubbing	Grade 4-5 dry and wet

## Leather Heavy use, L20



The standard grade leather used by Vitra is a robust cowhide leather, dyed-through, pigmented and embossed with an even grain pattern. Since it is hard-wearing and easy to maintain, it can also be used in office environments.

Leather is available in 16 colours.

### Material

Robust cowhide with a distinctive, even grain

### Fastness to light

Type 6

### Thickness

1,1–1,3 mm

### Fastness to rubbing

Grade 4 dry and wet

**vitra.**

## Leather Premium F Medium use, L50



Leather Premium F is a relatively smooth cowhide leather with a flat grain and fine top sheen. It is dyed-through, lightly pigmented and processed with a tanning agent extracted from olive tree leaves (a waste product of the olive harvest).

Leather Premium F is available in 22 colours.

### Material

Semi-aniline nappa leather with a very soft and supple feel, vegetable tanned

### Fastness to light

Type 5

### Thickness

1,1–1,3 mm

### Fastness to rubbing

Grade 4 dry and wet

### Leather/back panel Plano



### Leather/back panel Leather



### Leather Premium F/back panel Plano

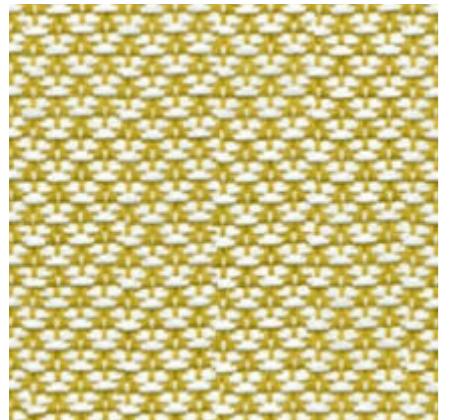


### Leather Premium F/back panel Leather Premium F



# Bikini Outdoor, Cover materials

## Apollo Medium use,



Material 100% olefin  
Weight 300 g/m<sup>2</sup> (8.8 oz/y<sup>2</sup>)  
Width 160 cm (63")  
Abrasion resistance 35,000 Martindale

Fastness to light Type 7-8

Pilling Grade 5  
Fastness to rubbing Grade 4-5 dry and wet

Apollo



**vitra.**

## Elio Residential use,



Material 100% acrylic  
Weight 260 g/m<sup>2</sup> (7.7 oz/y<sup>2</sup>)  
Width 137 cm (54")  
Abrasion resistance 20,000 Martindale

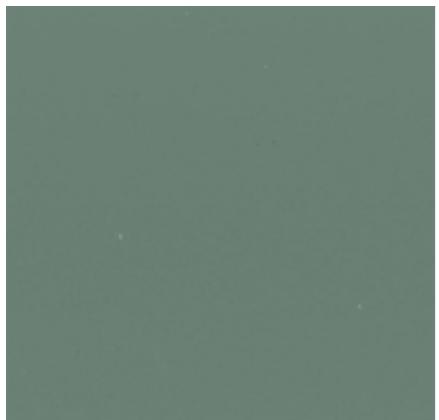
Fastness to light Type 8

Pilling Grade 5  
Fastness to rubbing Grade 5 dry and wet

Elio



**vitra.**



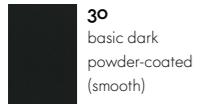
## Metal

Vitra most frequently uses aluminium and steel for metal components. Since 94% less energy is required to produce recycled aluminium in comparison to primary aluminium, Vitra utilises aluminium consisting of 95% recycled material whenever possible. Depending on the product, metal surfaces are either powder-coated, chrome-plated, polished, galvanised, lacquered or blasted. A smooth or textured powder-coated finish provides colour and surface protection.

**31**  
Eames Sea Foam Green powder-coated (smooth)

**Seat and base (Wire Chair DKR, LKR)**

**Seat and base (Wire Chair DKK)**



**Seat (Wire Chair DKW)**



## Solid Wood

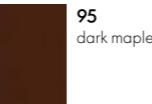
Wood is characterised by variations in grain, texture and colour, making each wooden furnishing a unique object. Vitra has strict quality standards for the woods selected for its products and uses wood from several trees for the manufacture of a single furniture object made of solid wood. As a result, every piece has a lively and distinctive appearance.

The solid woods used by Vitra are mainly sourced in Europe and have an oiled or lacquered finish, depending on their application. Exposure to light will alter the colour of wood over time.

**02**  
golden maple



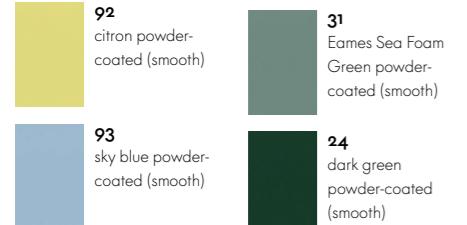
**Base (DKW)**



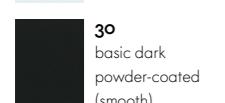
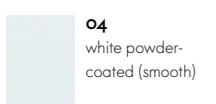
**95**  
dark maple



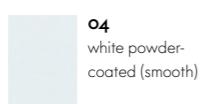
**30**  
black maple



**Seat and base  
(Wire Chair DKR, LKR Outdoor)**



**Seat and base  
(Wire Chair DKX Outdoor)**

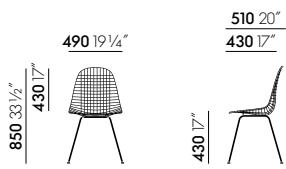


**Base (DKL)**

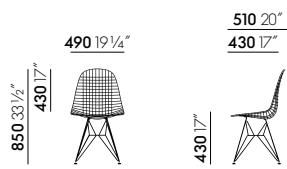
# Dimensions

(in accordance with EN 1335-1:2000)

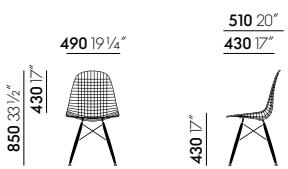
**vitra.**



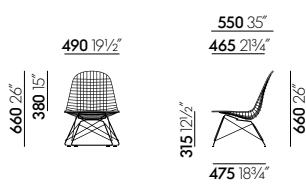
Wire Chair DDX



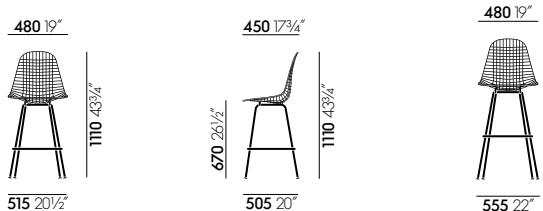
Wire Chair DKR



Wire Chair DKW



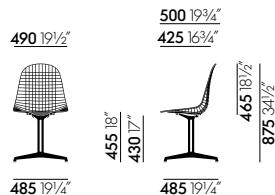
Wire Chair LKR



Wire Stool Medium



Wire Stool High



Wire Chair DKL

