

No. 1—the Chairs



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1.

Torso Chair by *Lisa Hilland*

Designer Lisa Hilland dreamt of creating furniture that combined both of her interests — fashion and design — in a self-evident manner. After a great deal of thought she came up with the *Torso* chair that is now being launched by Design House Stockholm.

“When I was younger I could not decide whether to devote myself to fashion or furniture design. Now I wanted to find out if I could design an item of furniture that combined my interests, that I could dress up in the way in which one dresses a torso,” Lisa explains.

The fundamental idea was in place but convincing Design House Stockholm that the chair would suit their range took a while. Ten years had passed since the launch of Lisa’s *Trinity* candle holder, and both parties had long thought about taking up the collaboration again.

Lisa sent her drawings to Anders Färdig, Design House Stockholm’s CEO, and the final version of the chair was established using the telephone, email and text messages.

“A well designed item of furniture takes time to mature. It has to suit the company’s idiom, it has to

function in many different countries and it has to be technically feasible from a production point of view. We sent drawings backwards and forwards and new ideas were added to the original design. After a while we both realized that we were on the trail of something really good,” Lisa explains.

Thus *Torso* was born, a chair which, like a bare torso, can be dressed in fabric — or a suit — and in this way change character. Lisa talks about the chair as being ‘dressed’. It is redolent of fashion and the first version, with a woven leather back, gently flirts with the Swedish craft tradition. The chair is modest in expression yet it is visually striking with its woven leather detailing.

The fact that the chair is manufactured in Sweden is seriously important to Lisa who prefers to work close to the manufacturer with all of the skills that can be accessed there. During her career she has worked with a succession of Swedish firms that maintain craft traditions and local manufacture.

“Swedish firms should become better at telling the world how skilled they are, the knowledge that they possess and the responsibility that they feel for the environment. But I think that today’s consumers are increasingly demanding this type of information. People want to know where furniture comes from as well as how it has been manufactured. When one understands how a piece of furniture has been made one is also willing to pay for quality,” Lisa maintains.



2.

The *Torso* framework is produced industrially in a factory in Sweden while the leather is woven by hand at another factory. The combination of hi-tech and lo-tech, framework and attire, creates a notable dynamic. This is a design that suits the home just as well as the public sector. The chairs are readily stackable and the intention is to make further attire for *Torso* available in the future. This will enable purchasers to choose the character or ‘dress’ that best suits their environment.

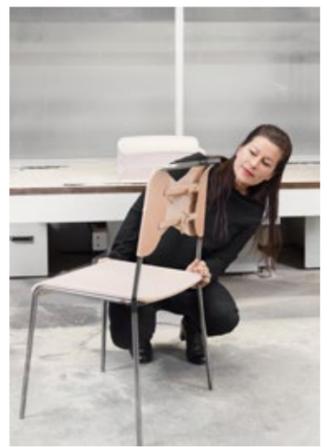
1. *Torso with oak seat, chromed legs and cognac leather together with a black version with black leather*
2. *Torso is stackable and therefore easily stored.*
3. *The woven back can be removed and could be replaced by other variants, just like clothing.*
4. *Black Torso with black leather, Ash version with white laquered legs and natural leather.*
5. *The designer Lisa Hilland visiting the factory in Nybro, Sweden. All parts of Torso are manufactured in Sweden.*

Cm (M). Torso Chair: h 83 (33) w 52 (20) d 53 (21) seat height 44 (17).

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4.



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6.

Wick Chair by *Karl Malmvall* & *Jesper Ståhl*

Combining progressive design and tradition, the *Wick Chair* is an ergonomic and versatile all-round chair with several different options to customise it for homes, offices, conference centres and hotels.

Design is only radical when it breaks with the norm for what a furniture typology should look like. *Wick Chair* is not, in the words of Design House Stockholm founder Anders Färdig, a ‘plastic tub.’

“I have a great weakness for avant-garde designs that form part of some type of tradition,” he explains while recalling the meeting at which designers Karl Malmvall and Jesper Ståhl presented their idea of what the *Wick Chair* might look like.

“Karl and Jesper placed an old basket in front of me, explaining that this was what they had in mind,” Anders Färdig remarks. “I was pretty much all at sea!”

The intention was never to produce a basket but the item that the designers presented explains the origins of the *Wick Chair* and the values that

it conveys. The *Wick Chair* is plaited in similar fashion to a wood-chip basket, which signals the design tradition from which it springs, but the plaiting can equally well be seen as an aspect of the designers’ elegant solution to a difficult practical problem.

“There are limits to how much one can bend wood,” Karl Malmvall explains. “That was why we decided on the plaiting.”

This pragmatic, no-nonsense approach, has been directly inherited from the country-craft tradition but it is also a solution that gives the *Wick Chair* its unique shape.

Jesper Ståhl and Karl Malmvall have simplified the plaiting to its absolute essence so that the *Wick Chair* only has one interwoven element on each side, but the shape has many intentional functional aspects. One positive effect of the interweaving is that at the point where the pieces of wood lock each other they can be glued on both sides. And the construction makes it possible to hang the chair on the edge of a table while cleaning the floors.

Unlike most other modular shell chairs, the *Wick Chair* is made of wood. Whether it is solid or laminated as in the slender back to the *Wick Chair*, wood is more pleasant than plastic, which is often experienced as either too cold or too hot. The wood also makes the backrest a little flexible — a desirable feature when spending several hours sitting in a chair.

Solid, round wooden legs makes a robust dining-chair; metal legs makes it stackable for the conference room; and the swivel base gives an excellent office chair. A cushion in leather or felt especially designed to fit the *Wick Chair* can be buttoned to its seat. This together with different options for wooden veneer and stain colours makes the *Wick Chair* not only a chair but an entire family of possibilities.

6. *Wick Chair with white aluminium swivel base and beige felt cushion seat.*

7. *Also available are leather and felt seat cushions. The cushions are held in place by push buttons underneath the seat of the chair.*

8. *3D printed models of various options for support in designer Jesper Ståhl’s studio.*

9. *Wick Chair is stackable in the metal leg version.*

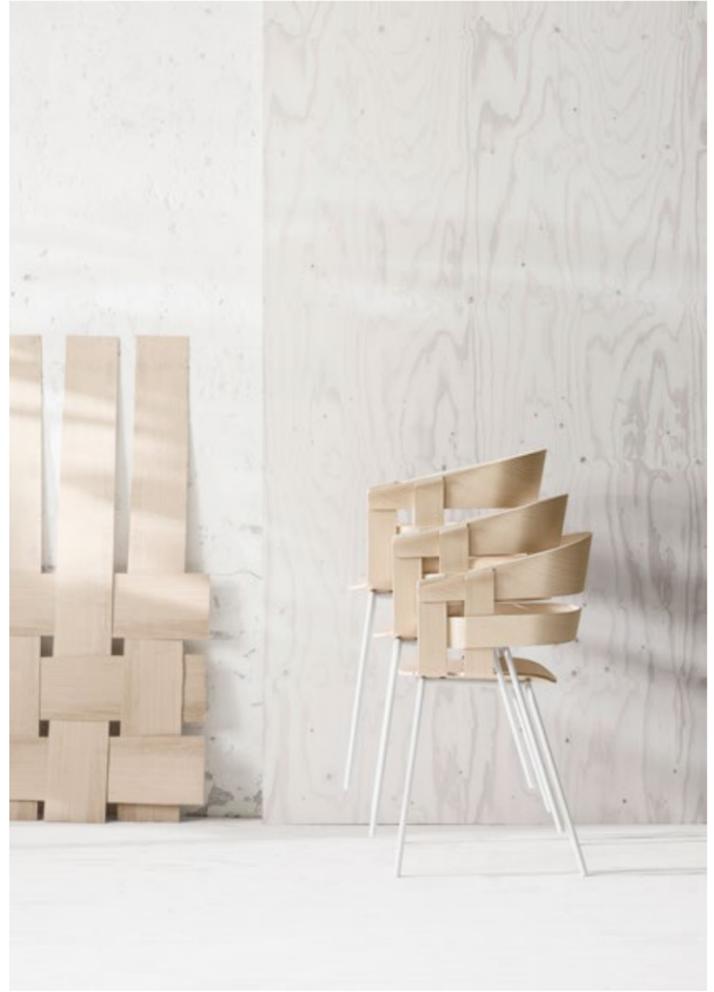
10. *Ash veneer with white metal tube legs and black stained with black wooden legs.*

11. *Oak veneer with solid oak legs and anthracite aluminium swivel base. The construction makes it possible to hang the chair on the edge of a table.*

Cm (ft). *Wooden/metal legs: h 78 (31) w 57 (22) d 50.5 (20) Swivel base: h 78 (31) w 57 (22) d 52 (20.5) seat height 44 (17).*



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12.

Family Chairs by *Lina Nordqvist*

Not every chair is created equal. Especially not *Family Chairs* by Lina Nordqvist, a foursome of traditional Swedish stickback chairs. Separately they present themselves as individuals, unique chairs aspiring to be something more than just pieces of furniture. Together they form a boisterous family, with each one displaying a distinctive character. Even the horizontal spindles between the chair legs play their part in the game.

Lina Nordqvist's *Family Chairs* were presented as a graduation project at *Beckmans College of Design* in Stockholm, with the aim of exploring the Swedish tradition of stick back chairs, and taking

the concept of a very economic use of wood into a contemporary setting.

"I'm fascinated by objects, and I like it when they have their own special individuality, something beyond mere technical function. That's why I decided on a graduation project in which I transformed something well-known and traditional into something unexpected."

In 2009, the chairs were included in the *MoMA Design Store's* collection and won an *Accent on Design Award* in New York, and in 2010, the Swedish *Elle Deco's Design Award*.

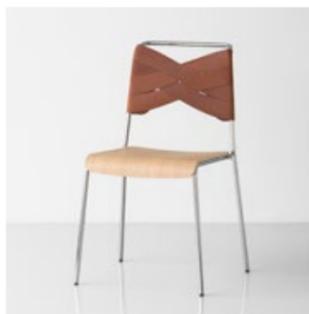
^{12.} *Family Chairs are available in four different versions but are sold singly.*

This offers buyers the opportunity to mix different forms of expression at will.

^{Cm (11).} *Family Chairs: h 84 (33) w 38 (15) d 45 (17.5) seat height 44 (17).*

Chairs

Torso chair
Designed by
Lisa Hilland



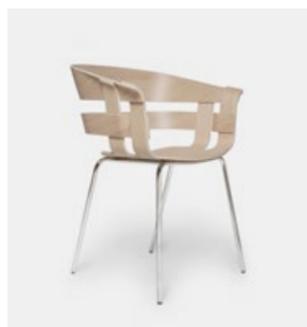
Lisa Hilland was inspired by the traditional hunter chair, with its frame in metal or wood and seat and backrest in leather when designing her 'Torso' chair. A comfortable and functional chair with an eye-catching backrest in plaited leather. Measurements: H 83 cm W 52 cm D 53 cm. Seat height 44 cm. Materials/colours: ash/natural leather, oak/cognac leather, black/black leather. More options available for contract customers, contact Design House Stockholm sales division for full list.

Family Chairs
Designed by
Lina Nordqvist



A boisterous family where each member aspires to stand out as more than plain furniture objects. Lina Nordqvist's graduation project at Beckmans College of Design explores the traditional Swedish stick back chair in a modern context. The 'Family Chairs' was awarded with the Accent on Design Award 2009 in New York, and Swedish Elle Deco's Design Award in 2009. Measurements: H 83 cm W 52 cm D 47 cm. Seat height 44 cm. Colours: white, black

Wick Chair
Designed by
Karl Malmvall & Jesper Ståhl



'Wick Chair' is a modular shell chair inspired by traditional Swedish wood-chip baskets. An ergonomic allround chair with several different options to customise it for home, offices, conference centers and hotels. Available with wood legs, steel tube legs or metal swivel base. Measurements: Wood legs/metal legs H 78 cm W 57 cm D 50.5 cm. Seat height 44 cm. Swivel base H 78 cm W 57 cm D 52 cm. Seat height 44 cm. Materials/colours: ash, oak, black stain. More options available for contract customers, contact Design House Stockholm sales division for full list.

Wick Chair seat cushions
Designed by
Karl Malmvall & Jesper Ståhl



Leather or felt cushion designed to fit the 'Wick Chair.' Can be buttoned to its seat. Measurements: H 1 cm W 38 cm D 38 cm. Materials/colours: beige felt, anthracite felt, black leather, brown leather.

A chair has to be able to fit in on its own just as well as part of a group. It should also give the interior decoration a boost and should be comfortable enough to endure long sittings.

With its Family Chairs, Wick Chair and Torso Design House Stockholm has created three chair collections with clear personalities.

Family Chairs is a playful version of the traditional Swedish stickback chair, which can be combined in four different models, while the Wick Chair has

borrowed its inspiration from the plaited Swedish wood basket.

Our new chair, Torso, flirts with the fashion world and is clad in woven leather. These are three original characters that one can sit on for a lengthy session.

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