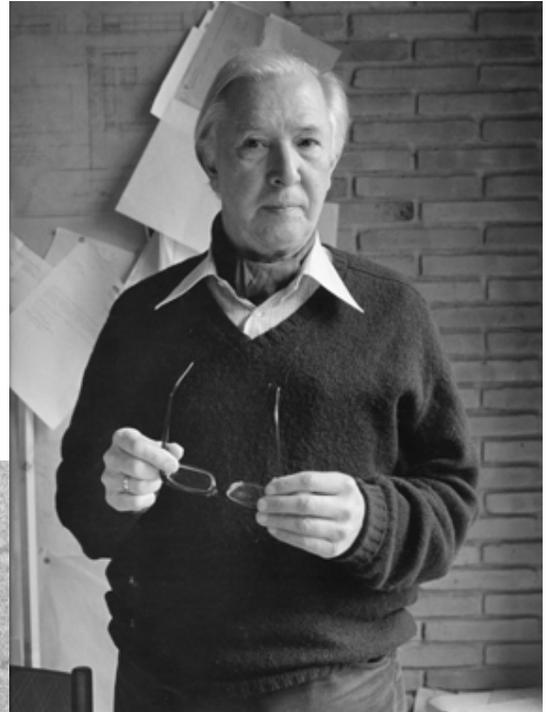


The Chair

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Appropriating the title of “The Chair” to describe their products is perhaps a bit of hyperbole, but the Danish firm of PP Mobler does have a long history of classic designs. Here are some images from their web site, so you can judge for yourself.

The picture below shows John F. Kennedy during the presidential election debate with Richard Nixon in 1960. The chairs are pp503 models designed by Hans J Wegner in 1950. (Pictured on right)



The next picture shows Presidents Obama and Medvedev in 2009 sitting on chairs of the same design – 50 years later.



The designs follow the Scandinavian values of simplicity and elegance, using light, unstained woods and clever joinery. Indigenous woods such as ash, beech, cherry, maple, and oak are used. You can see that the top rail is made from three pieces, connected with a triangular finger joint. This particular seat shown below is a rush seat that is hand woven, although the holes and slots are machine-made.



On the web site, you can see videos showing the manufacturing process. The components are made in a highly mechanised factory but with handwork, mostly for trimming and finishing. CNC routers and lathes are used to shape the parts. Jigs are widely used as well for gluing, laminating and bending. Achieving the quality of fit shown in the triangular finger joint would be very difficult using hand tools. After glue up, handwork is used to trim and smooth the pieces for a high quality finish, that can't be achieved by machine. The picture below shows a top rail upside down, being trimmed with a spokeshave.



No metallic fasteners are used in the joinery, although staples can be seen fastening the upholstery in a video.

More pictures and videos of the manufacturing process can be found at www.pp.dk If you click on Gallery and select the Prototypes, there are fifty pictures of prototypes from various designers– if you like designing and making your own furniture, you are bound to find something to start your creative processes.

