



Katie Walker's Windsor rocker is a collectable modern classic, with lacquered walnut spindles and a steam-bent ash frame, finished in white hard-wax oil. £2,345; heals.co.uk



A statement on a shoestring, this velvet tub from Oliver Bonas is perfect for the bedroom. The beech frame is upholstered in Designers Guild fabric in a range of jewel-like hues – this one is Zinnia. £445; oliverbonas.com

THE
STATEMENT
CHAIR



Part of Moroso's highly creative collection, the Victoria & Albert small armchair is designed by Ron Arad. Made from curvy polyurethane foam on a steel frame, it's pictured in Divina wool upholstery. £1,908; moroso.co.uk

Brand new from Baines & Fricker, a husband-and-wife design team, the SB03-4 rocker is handmade using London plane and upholstered in Kvadrat fabric. Also shown are the Rooftops cushion (£45) and new screenprints (from £30). £1,950; bainesandfricker.net



Combining functionality with the potential for flamboyance, the chair has been an endless source of inspiration for designers. The big beasts of design have all created statement seats, from Frank Gehry (Wiggle) to Philippe Starck (Ghost) and Ron Arad (Ripple). The high street is awash with more mundane kitchen, dining and armchairs at every price point. And we poor homeowners aren't so much spoilt for choice as overwhelmed by the options.

As the interiors world gears up for the launch of hundreds more chairs at the Milan furniture fair next month, it's worth asking what drives this perennial fascination and whether the new designs improve on the classics. Put simply, do we really need any more chairs?

Seats of desire

A good chair is a piece of design that you can get up close and personal with every day. Don't settle for less, says Katrina Burroughs

The place to spot the classics right now is Aram. March is Danish Design Month at the modern furniture store, with five Scandinavian brands being showcased and two iconic chairs celebrating milestones. The Series 7, designed by Arne Jacobsen for Fritz Hansen, is 60 years old, and it is the 100th anniversary of the birth of Hans Wegner, designer of the CH24 Wishbone chair, made in collaboration with Carl Hansen. The display is a reminder that one country in particular has spectacularly overdelivered, seatwise.

Ruth Aram explains why Danish designers and superseats go hand in hand. "It's because the Danes have a great history of working with wood, and wood is the material people continue to come back to. When customers are investing in a good-quality dining chair, they want to know a story. The Danes tell you a great one – about tradition, craftsmanship, the way they are sourcing their wood ethically."

Jacobsen and Wegner, the towering figures of midcentury Scandi style, clearly cracked it. Their chairs are admired