

A classic turns 50

It has now been 50 years since Børge Mogensen, the famous Danish furniture architect, designed The Spanish Chair for Fredericia Furniture. To celebrate the occasion, Fredericia Furniture is releasing an exclusive limited edition of the popular chair.

In 1958, Børge Mogensen was travelling in Spain, and wherever he went he encountered the same type of wooden chair with broad armrests and a host of intricate carvings. The design sparked his creative passion, and when he returned to Denmark he designed his own, modernised version of the chair for Fredericia Furniture. He did away with the carvings but left the broad armrests, and while he kept the frame in wood, he chose butt leather for the seat and backrest. And so the Spanish Chair was born – and introduced to the public for the first time at the joiners' autumn exhibition in 1958.

The Spanish Chair soon became one of the most widely recognised classics of the 1950s, and the chair is still popular today. Until now, the chair has been made using an oak frame with the seat and backrest in natural colour or black butt leather. In honour of the 50th anniversary of the chair, however, Fredericia Furniture has designed a special anniversary edition, of which only 500 numbered pieces will be made. The anniversary edition of the chair still features an oak frame, but its seat and backrest are in dark brown nubuck leather – a new material that not only improves the appearance of the chair, but also makes it softer and more comfortable to sit in.

The anniversary edition of The Spanish Chair will be on display at the Fredericia Furniture showroom in Sankt Annæ Passage as part of the Copenhagen Furniture Festival, 5–7 September 2008. Other innovations from Fredericia Furniture will also be on view in this light and airy showroom.

About Børge Mogensen:

Børge Mogensen is famous for designing high-quality furniture for Danish homes. He initially worked for FDB and later created some of the most widely recognised classics of the 1950s and 1960s (including the Wing Chair, the Hunting Chair, the Runner Chairs and the Spoke-back Chair and Sofa) in collaboration with Fredericia Furniture. Børge Mogensen created numerous award-winning pieces of furniture before his untimely death at the age of 58 in 1972. Ideas came to him at all times of the day and were often sketched out on napkins, matchbooks or whatever else was close at hand. Starting in 1955, when Andreas Graversen took over Fredericia Furniture, the two men built up a strong partnership and friendship – united in their common goal of creating uncluttered, high-quality furniture distinguished by its timeless design.

Learn more at www.fredericia.com