



**Pretzel Chair**  
**Anniversary Edition 2008**  
**George Nelson, 1952**

George Nelson (1908-1986) numbers among the most important and influential figures in American design during the second half of the twentieth century. Demonstrating a remarkable range of talents, Nelson was active in many areas—as a product designer and graphic artist, as an architect and exhibition designer, and as a successful manager and design promoter. He also produced an extensive body of publications dealing with topics of design theory and criticism that influenced the international discourse on design and architecture for several decades. [More information about George Nelson](#)

In the 1950s, George Nelson and his New York office developed an individual and expressive range of seating pieces, several of which have long since achieved classic status. In 1952, even before the famous Coconut Chair or the Marshmallow Sofa, Nelson designed a chair made out of bent wood that was initially referred to, simply, as the "Laminated Chair". The bold yet elegant curve of the single wooden piece forming the back and armrests soon inspired the nickname "Pretzel Chair". Bent laminated wood is used not only for the backrest and its twin supports, but also for the four legs that cross underneath the seat. The downward taper of the legs contributes to the



**"THEN CAME THE PRETZEL CHAIR, AN  
 INGENIOUS TWIST OF LAMINATED WOOD  
 PROMPTED BY NELSON'S NOTION OF A  
 CHAIR BEING SOMETHING YOU COULD LIFT  
 WITH TWO FINGERS."**

*Stanley Abercrombie, Design Critic*

chair's slender appearance. "Light weight, transparency and an elegant silhouette" were essential qualities that a chair should have, according to George Nelson. They are united in the Pretzel Chair. [More information about George Nelsons products](#)

On the occasion of George Nelson's 100th birthday, Vitra is re-introducing the Pretzel Chair - which numbers among the most famous designs by Nelson - in a limited Anniversary Edition of 1000 pieces. [For further information please contact your Vitra dealer](#)



[Pretzel Chair](#)

Vitra has produced Nelson designs since 1957 and has owned exclusive rights to his furniture designs for Europe and the Middle East since 1984.

In addition, the Vitra Design Museum includes the Nelson Archive in its holdings. On the occasion of his 100th birthday, the Vitra Design Museum is honouring George Nelson with a retrospective exhibition. [www.design-museum.com](http://www.design-museum.com)

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