

Eero Saarinen Tulip Collection Celebrating 50 Years of Design

While studying at the Cranbrook Academy of Art in the 1930's, Florence Knoll forged a lifelong friendship with Eero Saarinen, whose father, renowned Finnish architect Eliel Saarinen, served as Cranbrook's president. Over time, this relationship evolved into one of the most important design partnerships of the 20th century, and resulted in designs that have become major icons of the postwar era.

For a half-century, Eero Saarinen's Tulip Collection has been an icon of modern furniture design. Launched in 1957 by Knoll, the Collection pursued Saarinen's "one piece, one material" concept, attempting to simplify space through the elimination of legs. His organic use of form and modern use of materials are signature of his post-war style and evidence of his original intentions to become a sculptor.

Saarinen's single-pedestal furniture designs are said to mimic the elegant stem of a wine glass. Originally produced in white, they have taken on many new faces through their lifetime with different Knoll finishes and textile options.



In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Tulip Collection, Knoll is introducing a Platinum base finish and reintroducing Rosewood and Teak table tops. In addition, all pieces ordered between August 1, 2007, and August 1, 2008, will be affixed with a commemorative medallion bearing the mark of the designer.