

## Eero Saarinen Tulip Collection: Celebrating 50 Years of Iconic Design



**November 1954** Hans Knoll and Eero exchange letters committing to development of a new series for production. In his letter to Hans, Eero says, “I have been working evenings and have a whole wall full of sketches!”

**June 1955** Hans Knoll, concerned that Eero’s enormous work load will delay development of the new series, obtains agreement from Eero to assign an individual from Knoll development to work exclusively on the new series. Hans introduces Eero to Don Petitt; Eero likes Petitt; Petitt relocates to Michigan and joins Eero’s staff. Petitt works for Eero until March 1957, at which time he rejoins Knoll in Pennsylvania.

**October 12, 1955** Eero and Petitt take quarter-scale models of chairs to two plastics manufacturers for production discussions.

**Late Oct – early Nov 1955** First full-size model of the side chair is made; the armchair, fullsize, is not started until early 1956.

**July 1956** Eero is featured in cover story of Time magazine; pedestal series described.

**Feb–Mar 1957** Development complete; first pre-production chair prototypes assembled.

**March 1957** Saarinen applies for three patents on pedestal chairs; patents granted January 1958 and June 1960.

**May 1957** Eero applies for four patents on pedestal tables; patents granted May 1960 and April 1961.

**May 3, 1957** Special pre-introduction preview held in NY showroom for selected architects and invited press.

**January 6, 1958** Knoll issues a press release announcing the introduction of the pedestal collection. The chairs are offered with shells in “single neutral colors: white, grey and charcoal.” Table tops are offered in marble, white plastic, and walnut, teak or rosewood veneer. The press was informed: “These pieces may be seen in all Knoll showrooms after February 15, 1958.”

**March 3 – 5, 1958** Open house held in the newly enlarged New York showroom to introduce the pedestal collection to the public.