

Tulip Chair and Stool
Eero Saarinen





SAARINEN TULIP CHAIR AND STOOL In his purist approach to architecture and interior design, Finnish-born Eero Saarinen sought the essential idea and reduced it to the most effective structural solution within an overall unity of design. To that end, he designed the 1956 Tulip chair in terms of its setting, rather than a particular shape. "In any design problem, one should seek the solution in terms of the next largest thing," he said. "If the problem is a chair, then its solution must be found in the way it relates to the room..." In Tulip, a single-legged chair made from fiberglass-reinforced resin, Saarinen realized his ideal of formal unity: "Every significant piece of furniture from the past has a holistic structure." Winner of the 1969 Museum of Modern Art Award, the chair is available with or without arms, and with complementary stools and tables.

EERO SAARINEN Son of the celebrated architect Eliel Saarinen, Eero was classically trained in sculpture and architecture. His collaboration with Charles Eames in 1937 led to the creation of the Organic Armchair. Made from plywood and foam rubber, it was the first three-dimensional shaped bucket armchair. Saarinen continued to develop this theme in the following years with designs that included the Grasshopper, Womb and Tulip chairs, all for Knoll. Among the many buildings for which he is known are Dulles Airport in Washington, D.C., and the TWA terminal at Kennedy International Airport in New York.



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