

HOME&DECOR

DEBUT ISSUE 2011

RENOVATE

SPACE PLANNING / DECOR TRENDS / LIGHTING / MATERIALS /
HOMES / BATHROOMS / KITCHENS / WARDROBES / GADGETS



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mid-century modern

ICONS FROM THE MIDDLE OF THE 20TH CENTURY
PROVE THAT GOOD DESIGN IS TIMELESS.

26
style
guide

Distinctive curves like those of Arne Jacobsen's chairs and George Nelson's Bubble lamps, organic forms like the Noguchi coffee table and Aalto Savoy vase, and experimental approaches to materials like the moulded plywood lounge by Charles and Ray Eames and the fibreglass Tulip chair by Eero Saarinen – these elements and principles exemplify the design form known as Mid-century Modern.

The “century” in the phrase, coined in 1983 by American design writer Cara Greenberg, refers to the 20th century – the exact period being the early 1930s to the mid-1960s. Not as severe and formal as the “form follows function” motto of earlier Modernists, Mid-century Modern is characterised by casual materials such as fibreglass, plastic, wood and even paper; and an overall feeling of lightness (hence the tapered legs of many designs). In many ways, the time was a golden age for modern design: the names of architects Frank Lloyd Wright and Le Corbusier became bywords, and the functional yet aesthetically pleasing Scandinavian style went global.

Today, Mid-century Modern is the aspirational style for young, hip homeowners. It connotes a knowledge and appreciation of good design, although its detractors claim it's pretentious. Mid-century Modern designer originals are not cheap: An Eames plastic dining chair costs about \$400. However, resourceful aficionados can buy second-hand, vintage pieces (like our parents' retro 1960s-1970s furniture) online or from local sources such as antique shops or the Salvation Army, and proudly boast the provenance of their Mid-century Modern finds on design communities such as Apartment Therapy.

/the look/

Mid-century Modern interiors use furniture designed during the early 1930s to the mid-1960s. Interior finishes tend to be bright and airy, replicating the open spaces of the architecture of the time.

/the elements/

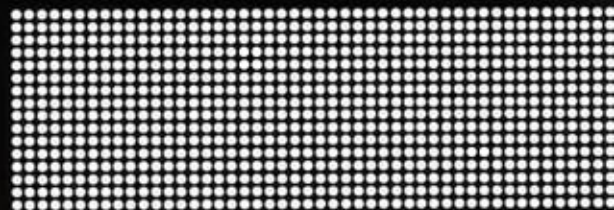
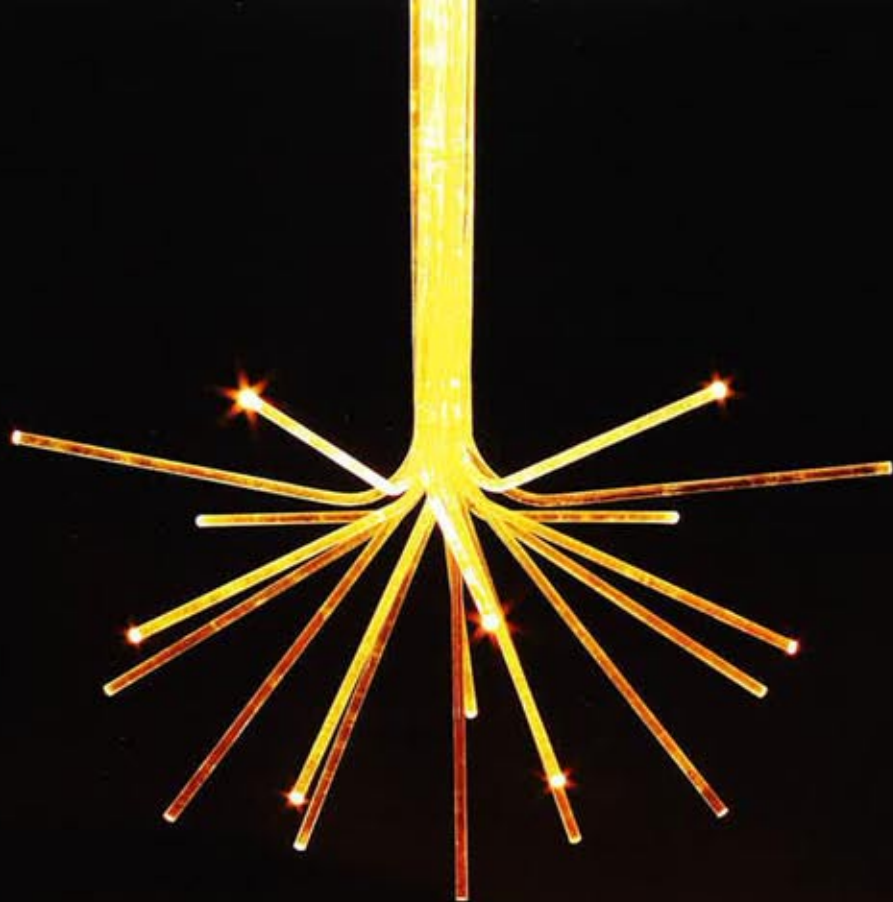
Light-hued wood flooring, white or pastel-coloured walls and plenty of natural light complement the fun shapes of Mid-century Modern furniture.

/where to see it/

New Majestic Hotel lobby, Nectar restaurant at Wangz Hotel. •



ALL LIGHTS FROM RED DOT DESIGN MUSEUM UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED
LOCATION RED DOT DESIGN MUSEUM, TEXT CHICUIT TORRENTE
PHOTOGRAPHY JUSTIN LOH STYLING NOME CHEN



starry starry light

Redefining "chandelier", the futuristic starburst-looking Kristall emits light from optical fibres in bunched-up acrylic rods. Designed by Jonas Wannfors for Swedish luxury design group Lyx Furniture. ●

Nest Lounge chair by Autoban, \$10,106, from Dream Interiors.

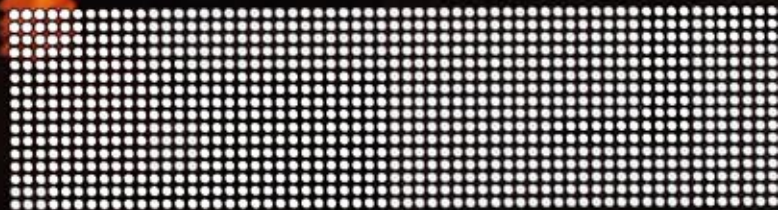




underwater world

The Coral LED Pendant Light by Dis Design from Taiwan is inspired by luminescent marine organisms in a nighttime ocean.

Table 44 by Gianluigi Landoni for Vibieffe, S2,242-S2,340, from Dream Interiors.





top-bottom
Bubble lamps by George Nelson (price unavailable) from Pomelo Home.
Eames CTW coffee table by Herman Miller, \$2,009, from Xtra Park Mall.
Box sofa by De La Espada, \$14,085, from Dream Interiors.
AJ table lamp (price unavailable) from Space Furniture.
Plank Living Grace lounge chair, \$2,565, from Air.

main picture
Egg chair by Arne Jacobsen (price unavailable) from Space Furniture.