Design plays an integral part in our lives, surrounding us at home and in our work life. The products of design – whether in the form of household products, packaging, fashion, software, and industrial equipment, or promotional images in the mass media – can be seen both as objects of beauty and as the result of creative human endeavour.

Especially Danish design is renowned for its functionalistic and simplistic design, incorporating these design elements into architecture as well as to everyday household items and unforgettable Danish design furniture such as chairs.

If we take a look back in history it was during the mid 20th century Danish design came into its own and got its international breakthrough. The years following World War II lead to a new flourishing of what became known for the world over as Danish design.

What makes Danish design unique is the fact that it never really goes out of style. Danish furniture – such as Arne Jacobsen’s stylishly simple chairs – are still displayed in design showrooms across the world as the ultimate image of modernity. The timeless allure of Danish design is due mostly to its simple lines, a deliberate lack of decoration, and a consistent pursuit of functionalism and material knowledge.

In the post-war years, a whole series of Danish designers explored the theme of functionalism; namely designers such as Finn Juhl, Arne Jacobsen, Hans J. Wegner, Børge Mogensen, Poul Henningsen, Poul Kjærholm, Verner Panton, and many others.

Take for example the Danish furniture designer Finn Juhl as he is considered a true pioneer. Juhl’s furniture calls out and sparks admiration, because it possesses a certain sculptural elegance that reaches far beyond its own time. With his organic and artistically inspired shapes, Juhl was a main exponent of the organic variant of international modernism. In 1949 he designed the “Chieftain Chair”, an innovative armchair, that epitomises Finn Juhl’s own unique design style.

From the Designmuseum Danmark we hope you will enjoy The Copenhagen Book and invite you to visit us at the museum.

Designmuseum Danmark in Copenhagen is Denmark’s largest museum for both Danish and international design and is a central exhibition forum for industrial design and applied arts in Scandinavia.