Guide: Danish design icons [1]

Denmark is a small country with an enormous passion for design. It’s produced many internationally-renowned designers, landmarks and products. Maybe you know their names, but do you recognise their faces?

Hans J. Wegner

Most known for his functional chairs, which you will see all over Denmark, Hans J. Wegner was a very influential figure in chair design. You can buy some of his most famous chairs, such as the Y Chair, at Illums Bolighus in Copenhagen.

Arne Jacobsen

One of the most recognisable names in Danish design, architect and furniture designer Arne Jacobsen’s chairs, particularly The Egg and The Swan, are highly sought-after. You can buy Arne Jacobsen products at Illums Bolighus in Copenhagen.

Finn Juhl

Famous for introducing Danish modern design to America, Finn Juhl was an architect and industrial designer. You can visit his house in Klampenborg, north of Copenhagen, and buy classics such as his Diplomat and Chieftain chairs at shops on Bredgade in Copenhagen.

Nanna Ditzel

Nanna Ditzel [2] was a Danish furniture and jewellery designer who produced many recognisable pieces from the 40s until her death in 2005. She exhibited all over the world and also worked in jewellery collaborations with Georg Jensen.

Georg Jensen

Georg Jensen was a Danish silversmith who set up his first silversmithy, which would become the world-renowned Georg Jensen company we know today, in Copenhagen in 1904. Growing out of its Art Nouveau origins, Georg Jensen [3] has developed to become a luxury lifestyle brand.

Kaare Klint

Kaare Klint is known as the father of modern Danish furniture design, who created his first piece of furniture in 1914. Some of his most recognisable pieces include the Safari Chair, the Propeller Stool and the Church Chair.

Børge Mogensen

Børge Mogensen was instrumental in creating a world-wide respect for Danish furniture design. Trained as a cabinet maker, Mogensen worked with other big names of his generation and exhibited around the world. His Spanish Chair is a Danish classic.

Verner Panton

Known as the enfant terrible of Danish design, Verner Panton [4] was a furniture and interior design who experimented with colourful plastics and unconventional shapes. You can see a great example of this in the Panton S Chair.

Poul Kjærholm

Poul Kjærholm was an award-winning furniture designer and Professor at the Danish Institute of Design until his death in 1980. He is exhibited widely around the world and pieces such as the Hammock Chair, are firm favourites with Danes. Fritz Hansen continues to produce many of his chairs.

Poul Henningsen

Often referred to as PH, Poul Henningsen is Denmark's best known lighting designer. His PH5 lamp and Artichoke lamp are popular modern items, despite being designed as far back as the 50s. You can buy PH lamps in many places, including Louis Poulsen [5] and Illums Bolighus [6].

Further reading

Read more about Shopping in Denmark [7].

Read more about Copenhagen [8].

Read more about Danish design [9].