

# Step 1: LET'S LOOK!

Before you design your own chair, let's get some ideas from chairs at the Cranbrook Art Museum!

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## *What is Design? What is a Designer?*

Designers create the objects and items we use in the world everyday — at home, work, school, or play! Designers think carefully about how things work and how things look.

There are many different types of designers. Architects design houses. Fashion Designers design clothes and shoes. Interior Designers think about spaces and how items are placed in a room.

Look at the chairs below. Each was designed by a different designer at Cranbrook! What do you notice? What is different? What is the same? Where would you put these chairs? Designers think about all of these things: how objects are used and who will use them, how objects look and where they will live!



Florence Knoll Bassett  
*Armchair*, 1946



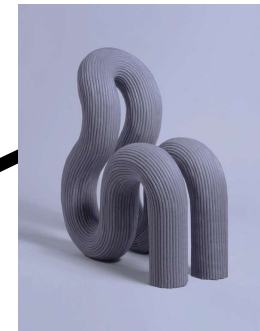
George Nelson  
*MAA Swaged Leg Lounge*, c. 1958



Michael McCoy  
*Door Chair Prototype*, 1981



Nina Cho  
*Curved Chair*, 2015



Ara Thorose  
*7M Chair in Grey*, 2016

A **DESIGNER** thinks about how objects work and how objects look.

Look for objects in your space a designer could have made. List or draw them below.

# Step 2: LET'S LEARN!

Learn how designers use FORM & FUNCTION. How can you think about FORM & FUNCTION in your chair design?

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## *Thinking about form & function.*

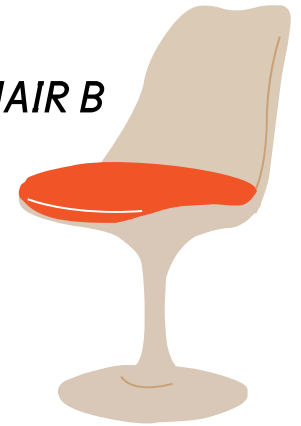
**FORM** is how something looks. (Color, shape, texture are all part of the form.)

**FUNCTION** is what something does, how it is used, its purpose. (Who is using the object, where it will be used, thinking about how it will be used, are all part of the function.)

CHAIR A



CHAIR B



Chair designers balance the chair's use (FUNCTION) and the way the chair looks (FORM). Both are needed for good design!

Chair A and Chair B have the same FUNCTION (a place to sit!) but their FORM is different. These chairs do not look the same.

How are Chair A and Chair B different?

Which chair do you like more? Why?

How are Chair A and Chair B the same?

Where would you put these chairs? Why?

Think of all the ways to use a chair! List or draw them below.

# Step 3: LET'S PLAN!

To test their ideas, designers plan before they build by brainstorming, sketching, and making prototypes!

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## Think like a designer!

Designers plan first, build second! They start by asking questions and thinking about who will use their design.

Answer the questions below in your Art Kit notebook.

1. Who will you design a chair for?

*(A monkey? The sun? Your brother?)*

2. What can you add to the chair that your user would need or like?

*(Bananas? Sunglasses? Pillows & snacks!)*

3. Sketch a picture of your chair. How big is it? What materials and colors will you use?

*(Green and leafy? Fabric that won't melt?)*

Brainstorm a new chair idea on each page!  
Think about 3 different people or things that could use your chairs. How does the user change your design?

A **BRAINSTORM** is a way to think of as many ideas as possible. There are no wrong answers! Write whatever comes to mind.

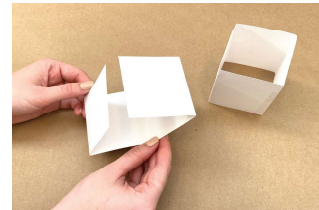
## Create like a designer!

Designers make prototypes of their ideas. A prototype is a small model made with simple materials. Designers look at models to see how ideas work.

Simple shapes are a good place to start! Follow the steps below to prototype a chair with 4 legs.

From the Art Kit: 1 white piece of paper, tape and scissors

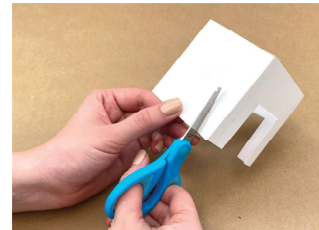
1



### Create your chair base!

Cut one long paper strip, then fold it in half. Now fold it in half again. Open up the paper strip. You now have 4 lines to fold and shape into a square. Tape the ends together.

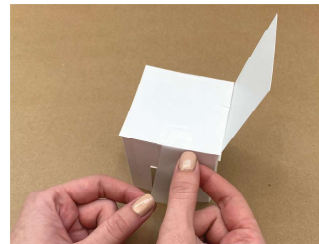
2



### Cut into the square base to create legs!

Make sure to cut between the folds and not all of the way to the top! We need the square to stay together to support your chair!

3



### Tape a seat on top of your legs!

Your top can be any shape. It can have a back or not. You have started your prototype! What can you add? How can you change this design?

# Step 4: LET'S MAKE!

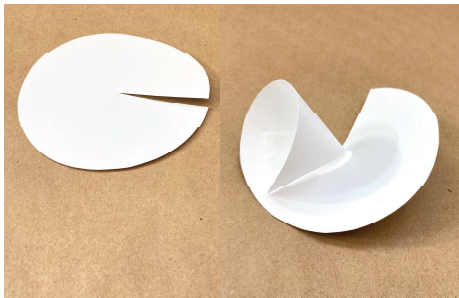
Now you're ready to build your own unique chair, thinking about the chairs FORM and FUNCTION!

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## Play with shape & line!

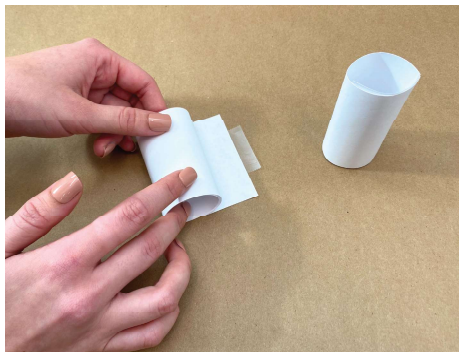
Designers play with shapes and lines! Use the paper in your kit to create different shapes. How can you use these shapes in your chair prototypes?

From the Art Kit grab: 1 white piece of paper, tape and scissors



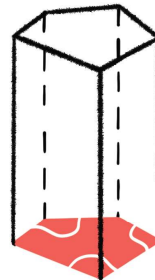
### CONE

*Cut out a circle. Cut a slit from the edge to the center. Pull the cut over the circle shape, twist to form a cone. Tape to hold in place.*



### CYLINDER

*Take a long strip of paper and roll it up! Play with how thick or thin you want your cylinder to be. Tape the end when you are happy with the size.*



*Add folds to a long rectangle to create 5, 6, 7 sided PRISIMS. (This one has 5 sides!)*



*Overlap cut strips of paper and tape to a circle base to create a DOME shape!*

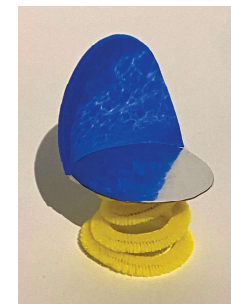
## So many ways to sit!

Here are some ideas to get you started on your chair designs.



**This chair has 3 legs instead of 4!**  
**It uses wiggly lines.**  
**Its seat is made with soft materials.**

**What else do you notice?**



**This chair uses bright colors!**  
**The bottom is springy and bouncy.**  
**Its seat is shiny.**

**What else do you notice?**



**This chair has a rope seat!**  
**Its bottom is like a mirror.**  
**Its both round and pointy.**

**What else do you notice?**