

# Sedentary passions

In the first of a new series **Nick Vinson** chooses his top five contemporary chairs and sofas while, right, **Judith Miller** selects the best examples from the past

## 1 The Worker chair by Hella Jongerius

In 2005, Jongerius introduced her highly influential Polder sofa, revising the modernist mantra of form follows function with her own "form follows feeling". This year she added a chair, working "like a contemporary carpenter" to combine hand-crafted elements with technologically sophisticated materials. Her use of varied textiles and colours and decorative buttons have become a signature, and in this case, the result looks like workers' clothes, hence the name.

From £2,368; [www.vitra.com](http://www.vitra.com)



## 2 Facett chair by Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec

The Facett line, launched by Ligne Roset last year, has already won several design awards. Its form recalls the cuts of diamonds or even origami, enhanced by the clever use of bold graphic quilting. There are two sofas, an armchair and two foot rests (which fit into the chairs like jigsaw pieces and can be turned on their ends for lounging) as well as a quilted rug. Comfort and flexibility aside, the Bouroullec brothers' triumph here is complex simplicity.

€2,114 (chair); €645 (stool); [www.ligne-roset.com](http://www.ligne-roset.com)



## 3 Sofa by Florence Knoll

This sofa, often copied but never bettered, was designed by Florence Knoll in 1954 (and has been in production ever since) to "fill in" the Knoll range, which also included designs by Mies van der Rohe, Eero Saarinen and Harry Bertoina. "I never



## i Sofa Late Gustavian period

This sofa, from Stockholm has an upholstered seat and a simple tapered off-width legs with rosettes and it is the unadorned neo-classic predominant in Sweden in the 18th century. In 1771, Gustav III returned to Sweden from France having been profoundly influenced by French decorative arts. He went on to create a more restrained version of the over-embellished baroque and rococo styles better suited to their environment. SKr13,000-SKr70,000 (£1,000) [www.uppsalaauktion.se](http://www.uppsalaauktion.se)

## ii Giltwood armchair George III period

