

RALPH GIERHARDS

ANTIQUES / FINE ART



Wool Armchair

Circa: Circa 1950

Wool Mahogany, Danish,

106 x 80 cm

41.7322834645669 x 41.7322834645669"

Circa 1950

Wool Mahogany

106 x 80 x 67 cm (41³/₄ x 31¹/₂ inches)

The architect and designer Mogens Lassen was a co-founder of Danish Functionalism. As a furniture designer, he was inspired by the geometric designs of the Bauhaus. Growing up in a family of artists, with both parents being painters, Lassen knew from an early age that he would one day become an architect. However, because Mogens was dyslexic and his financial means were limited, he had to complete an apprenticeship as a bricklayer before studying architecture at the School of Architecture.

As a student, he worked on projects by Ole Wanscher, Arne Jacobsen, and Hans Bretton-Meyer. After completing his studies, he worked in the renowned studio of the architect Tyge Hvass from 1925 to 1934. In 1927, Lassen traveled to Paris and worked for the firm Christiani & Nielsen. Although he was dissatisfied with the work, he met Le Corbusier, who offered him the opportunity to design a public square in his studio. Lassen declined the commission. Returning to Denmark, Lassen opened his own studio in 1935. He later worked as an exhibition architect for the arts and crafts movement "Den Permanente," which, from 1931 onward, focused on Danish design and interior decoration. Lassen designed and built houses for people he knew. In 1950, he designed the State Life Insurance administration building in Copenhagen (built 1950–1953) with Frits Schlegel. As a designer, he created a series of steel furniture pieces in the 1930s, and later wooden furniture, including a round folding table produced by A. J. Iversen. The Cross-Legged Table (1940) became a classic of Danish furniture design. In 1942, Lassen created the "ML 42" stool for a furniture fair at the Copenhagen Museum of Art and Industry. For the design, with its ergonomic seat and three legs, he was inspired by stools used by shoemakers in the 1940s. Lassen's "Mingle" sofa and the "Kubus" bowl were hugely successful. Hardly any home accessory is as versatile as this solid metal decorative cube with a recessed bowl. The "Frame" shelving system – a storage system consisting of many individual elements available in various sizes, reedited by the Danish company by Lassen – received the German Design Award in 2016. The "Twin" side table is produced with a reversible top (e.g., laminate or oak) on a steel frame. byLassen also offers various candleholders from the "Kubus" series (1962). Lassen has received, among other awards, the C.F. Hansen Medal, Denmark's highest honor for architects, for his work.

Literature:

S. Bernadotte & J. Lehm-Laursen, *Danish Modern*, Vol. 2, 1947, p. 212
Andrew Hollingsworth, *Danish Modern*, Gibbs Smith, p. 64