

Karakter x Cassina

CH66 chair by Nicos Zographos – Karakter x Cassina

The essence of a chair, a calibrated balance between structural lightness and dynamic tension

A chair deeply rooted in our collective memory, the CH66 was designed in 1966 by Nicos Zographos (1931–2023), a name that Cassina was already acquainted with following a collaboration with the company in 1964. An architect, designer and interior designer, Zographos embraced the Bauhaus philosophy and worked intensely on the true essence of design, emphasising function as well as form, using the **highest-quality materials** and always with **meticulous attention to detail**, values that connect him to both the spirit of Karakter and Cassina today.

Strongly inspired by the Bauhaus movement, the CH66 **takes the typical cantilever chair and reverses it**, creating a **visually striking double curve** in the profile between the backrest and seat. Its **rigorous and elegant** presence is defined by **slender, essential geometries** while its frame, **a continuous line** of chromed tubular steel, features **gentle curves** that perfectly accommodate the body.

Part of the MoMA permanent collection in New York, this year the CH66 makes a comeback in the **Karakter x Cassina** collection thanks to in-depth study carried out in collaboration with his daughters Athena and Fotini Zographos, offering a versatile solution for a multitude of residential and contract contexts.

The CH66 chair, in respect of the original project, is produced with four chrome or painted black stainless-steel tubes which have been bent and shaped with extreme precision and fastened with screws, intentionally left visible on the back to keep its upholstery in place. The result is **a striking frame that appears to be suspended in space**. The seat and backrest, which have the exact same curve, are upholstered with fine saddle-leather available in a range of colours, stretched and secured with metal springs that ensure elasticity as well as **remarkable comfort**, constituting a **highly refined aesthetic detail**.

"The chair is resilient, elastic, and so light it doesn't encumber space with its mass. It was the closest I came to a pure and precise kind of chair." Nicos Zographos.

The Design Art of Nicos Zographos, Peter Bradford, Monacelli Press, 2000.

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Materials: frame in tubular chrome or painted black stainless steel; seat and backrest in saddle-leather; metal springs.

Measurements: 48x59.6xh.80.7 cm

Nicos Zographos (1931-2023) was one of the great modernist designers of the late 20th Century. Born in Athens, Greece, he went on to earn a BA and Master's Degree in Fine Arts and Design from the University of Iowa between 1949-1956.

The following year, in 1957, Nicos' career as an architect, interior and furniture designer took off as he was offered a position at the architectural firm Skidmore, Owings and Merrill (SOM) in New York. He remained for seven years between 1957-1962 in the Interiors Division alongside Gordon Bunshaft before founding his own Contract/Custom Furniture Manufacturing Company Zographos Designs Limited in 1964.

The company consisted exclusively of Zographos' original designs, blending an austere modernist aesthetic - based on the Bauhaus philosophy - along with subtle curves, treating each design as a piece of sculpture.

Zographos' furniture became synonymous with quality, uncompromisingly high standards and perfection in the details and soon attracted such renowned architects as Walter Gropius, I.M. Pei and Philip Johnson who regularly specified the furniture for their projects in some of the most iconic modernist interiors throughout the United States and abroad.

A comprehensive selection of his works can be found in the publication 'The Design Art of Nicos Zographos', Monacelli Press, 2000.