

AD

summer
bliss

dreamy
beach houses
in cabo,
east hampton,
santa cruz
+
martha's vineyard

international
sensation
J BALVIN finds
his rhythm
in colombia



SPECIAL the AD100 at home
top creatives reflect on a changing world

HANS WEGNER'S
FAMOUS WISHBONE
CHAIRS GATHER AROUND
THE BREAKFAST TABLE
AT THIS FAMILY HOME IN
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA,
BY COMMUNE DESIGN.

Great Dane

How *Hans Wegner's* popular, pared-down seats ushered in a new era of Danish design



object lesson



1. IN ALEXANDRA VON FURSTENBERG AND DAX MILLER'S LOS ANGELES HOME, WHITE WISHBONES SURROUND THE KITCHEN TABLE. 2. A RED WISHBONE IN ROMAN ALONSO'S LOS ANGELES PAD.

At the Copenhagen Cabinetmakers' Guild exhibition in 1947, Holger Hansen, son of cabinetmaker Carl Hansen, met Hans Wegner, a young designer making radical new furnishings: sleek forms inspired by the minimal designs of China's Ming dynasty. Hansen's family-run company, hoping to segue into serial manufacturing, took a chance on the young Dane two years later, putting five of his pieces into production by 1950. The firm still makes all of them today.

One chair, which some say was commissioned to compete with the ubiquitous Thonet café chair, became a fan favorite: the CH24, a.k.a. the Wishbone Chair (from \$765 at Design Within Reach). With an ultra-simple hardwood silhouette that eliminated all nonessential material and a seat made from paper, spun to look like a rope (a Swedish invention during wartime, when sisal was scarce), it followed Wegner's self-described "process of purification and of simplification." Design Within Reach now sells a version with a leather seat.

Danish customers, though, were not immediately convinced. "They didn't fit into a 1950s home," observes Knud Erik Hansen, the firm's current CEO. "Even my granddad, used to heavy mahogany, thought they looked like garden furniture." But the Wishbone found a warm welcome over in sunny California and soon gained favor in Germany. In a few years, Danes came around, too, embracing a chair that became a hallmark of Danish modernism the world over.

Wegner, who said "a chair isn't finished until someone sits in it," prized comfort. And today's Wishbone admirers vouch for his attention to detail: Commune Design's Roman Alonso has 24 Wishbones in his L.A. studio and a red version that became his go-to perch while he worked from home this past spring. "It's a no-brainer," says Alonso. "A classic shape that's so comfortable." Designer Ilse Crawford also pledges her allegiance: "Rather like the Thonet café chair that it was commissioned to compete with, it's so good, so refined, so well resolved that we will never be tired of it." *dwr.com* —HANNAH MARTIN



3. A CEDAR-CLAD DINING AREA ON MARTHA'S VINEYARD BY SHELTON, MINDEL & ASSOC. 4. THE DINING ROOM OF A MANHATTAN TOWN HOUSE BY LEROY STREET STUDIO AND CHRISTINE MARKATOS LOWE.



1. DOUGLAS FRIEDMAN; 2. STEPHEN KENT JOHNSON; 3. MICHAEL MORAN; NORIKO FURUNISHI; 4. WILLIAM WALDRON; DAVID ARMSTRONG