

HIGHLIGHTS OF 20th CENTURY DESIGN



Ladderback Chair
(ashwood)

The Modern Classics Design Collection, belonging to the Faculty of Wood Engineering, proudly displays 36 chairs able to illustrate the history of design between the 1900s and 2010. The visionary architects and designers who are present in this collection are: Ch.R. Mackintosh (Scotland), J. Hoffmann (Vienna), F.L. Wright (USA), G.Th. Rietveld (The Netherlands), M. Stam, M. van der Rohe and M. Breuer (Bauhaus, Germany), Le Corbusier and J. Prouvé (France), Ch. Eames, H. Bertoia and E. Saarinen (USA), H. Wegner, A. Jacobsen and V. Panton (Denmark), G. Ponti and A. Castiglioni (Italy), , E. Arnio (Finland), P. Opsvik (Norway), F.O. Gehry (USA), Ph. Starck (France), M. van Severen (Belgium), B. Pot & M. Wanders (the Netherlands), Ș. Sturdza and V. Scripcariu (Romania).

Our collection is certainly unique in Romania and offers the opportunity to have a direct contact with some the most iconic chairs of the century, allowing to investigate forms, dimensions, angles, joints, materials and technologies, not to mention the act of seating oneself on these famous historic chairs. The collection was founded and developed in the frame of the Belgian-Romanian project Mediateca N. Detaeye, initiated in 1991 by Norbert Detaeye, a musician and designer from Gent, Belgium. The project is still in process and it is also supported by J. Wielandts, secretary of the Jazz Center in Dendermonde, Belgium.

When we pay attention to the chronological order of the designs, the presentation has to start with the *Ladderback Chair* (1903) designed by Charles Rennie Mackintosh (1868-1928) for the Hill House in Helensburg, Scotland, and the *Fledermaus Chair* (1907) designed by Josef Hoffmann (1870-1956) for the Cabaret *Fledermaus* in Vienna, followed by the *Barrel Chair*, designed in 1904 by Frank Lloyd Wright (1867-1959) and rethought by him in 1937 for the Wingspread House of Racine, Wisconsin.



Fledermaus chair (beech wood)



Barrel Chair (cherry wood)