

Extended analysis and response

Upper Primary/ students

Art Gallery of South Australia Education Services Resource

The following research tasks require students to explore the exhibition and the ideas running through it by making comparisons between different artists/designer's practice and work. Some of the tasks require students to focus on a single item and research this thoroughly on site before undertaking further investigation later.

- See if you can find an item that gives you an idea for a furniture design piece. Make a quick sketch of your idea and include a few notes to explain the details.
- Imagine that you are the curator of this exhibition. Which furniture design would you choose as the best design of the century for advertising the exhibition? Consider what image would catch people's attention.
- Some designers in this exhibition have been inspired by animals or left some animal clues. Can you find them? When you do, make a list of some of the animal clues you have found and show someone else.
Later, try designing a chair or another item of furniture that has been inspired by or takes ideas from nature.
- Some of these chairs have been designed to last. Other's maybe not. Which chair would last the longest? Think about and discuss some reasons why this might be so? Which chair would wear out the quickest? Think about and discuss some reasons why this might be so. Should furniture always last as long as possible?
- Which chair was the most expensive to make? What gives you this idea?
Which chair would have been the cheapest to make? What gives you this idea?
- If you could give one of these pieces of furniture to someone you know what would you choose and who would you give it to?
- If you could imagine something in this exhibition turning into something else, what might it be?
- In this exhibition there are other things like lampshades, paintings and lengths of material. Find out why they have been included in the exhibition. Can you see why certain things are near or next to each other?
Clue: look at the labels and check the dates for when each item was made.
- What might furniture look like over the next hundred years? What might it be made from? Do you think some of the designs in this exhibition might still be around in many years to come? Why?
- In this exhibition there are sets of furniture. They have been designed by one person who has used the same style of design even though the items are different (eg chair, chest of drawers). Find some of these sets and look at the way the same style has been used. Later see if you can design a set of items for a commercial setting or home which have the same style.
- Later, look around your own home and see what styles of furniture there are. Is everything in the same style? If not does this matter? Find out who made the decision to buy this kind of furniture and ask this person why they liked this (and not that) style. Were there any other reasons for choosing apart from style and appearance? Do you think designers should know about these reasons when developing their ideas?