

PRESS RELEASE

## Wooden Conversations - Artek presents special edition of Ilmari Tapiovaara's Domus Chair

The award-winning Domus Chair was designed in 1946 by Finnish designer and interior architect Ilmari Tapiovaara for the student housing complex Domus Academica in Helsinki. The original chair was made in wood – the only available material in post-war Finland – and intended for reading and general use. By combining solid wood and form-pressed plywood, Tapiovaara created a chair that conformed to the body in a new and highly comfortable way. The characteristic short armrests of the Domus Chair offer a surprising degree of support, while simultaneously allowing the chair to be pulled close to a table.

The lightweight, stackable, and multi-purpose Domus quickly gained success in Finland and abroad. Its international recognition eventually made Domus the first successful post-war design export from Finland. Sold in the UK under the name "Stax" and in the United States as the "Finnchair," its popularity led to numerous awards, such as the American Good Design Award, which Tapiovaara received in Chicago in 1950, and the gold medal at the Milan Triennale in 1951.

"Wooden Conversations" is a special edition inspired by Domus Chairs from the Artek archive: two different wood species are combined to create a lively dialog between Finnish birch and North American elm wood. Elm wood, known for its exquisitely vivid grain pattern and colours, is used for seat and backrest and juxtaposed with the chair's frame in calm, blond birch wood. And just as all Domus Chairs since 1946, this edition is produced in Finland by skilled craftspeople.

The Wooden Conversations Domus Chair will be available in fall 2022 at Artek Helsinki and Artek Tokyo, as well as through selected retailers.

Artek – Art & Technology since 1935

Artek was founded in Helsinki in 1935 by four young idealists: Alvar and Aino Aalto, Maire Gullichsen, and Nils-Gustav Hahl. Their goal was "to sell furniture and to promote a modern culture of living by exhibitions and other educational means."

In keeping with the radical spirit of its founders, Artek today remains an innovative player in the world of modern design, developing new products at the intersection of design, architecture, and art. The Artek collection consists of furniture, lighting, and accessories designed by Finnish masters and leading international designers. It stands for clarity, functionality, and poetic simplicity.

For more than 80 years, Artek's products have enriched public spaces, museums, schools, restaurants, hotels, shops, as well as countless private homes all over the world. The company is headquartered in Helsinki, Finland, also home to the Flagship Store Artek Helsinki and the Artek 2nd Cycle Store.

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