



The Timeless Elegance of Poul Kjærholm

Poul Kjærholm, a master of Danish design, has left an indelible mark on the world of furniture with his timeless and elegant pieces. Kjærholm's work is a testament to the beauty of simplicity, and his use of steel as a primary material showcases a cool, modern aesthetic that remains highly influential today.

Born in Denmark in 1929, Kjærholm trained as a cabinetmaker before studying at the School of Arts and Crafts in Copenhagen. It was here that he began to experiment with materials beyond wood, particularly steel, which would become a hallmark of his design philosophy. Unlike many of his contemporaries, Kjærholm saw steel not just as a structural element, but as a material with its own inherent beauty and potential for expression.

The PK series

One of the most striking aspects of Kjærholm's furniture is its ability to combine industrial materials with a sense of grace and refinement. His designs are minimalistic yet highly sophisticated, reflecting his belief that functionality and aesthetics should be seamlessly integrated. This philosophy is perfectly embodied in his iconic PK series, where steel frames are often paired with natural materials like leather and marble, creating a striking contrast that is both modern and timeless.

Take, for instance, the PK22 lounge chair. With its sleek steel frame and elegant leather seat, the PK22 is the epitome of cool sophistication. The chair's design is incredibly simple, yet every detail is meticulously considered, from the angle of the seat to the curve of the backrest.

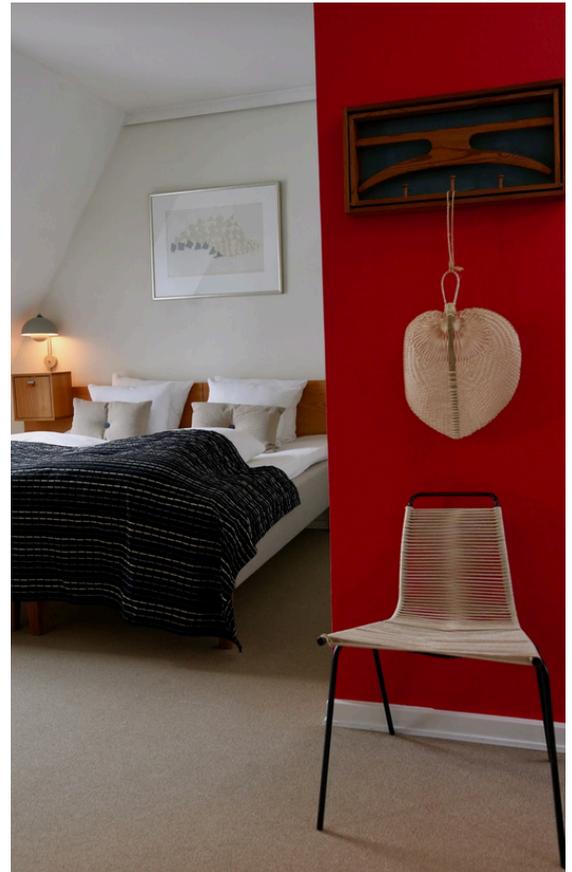
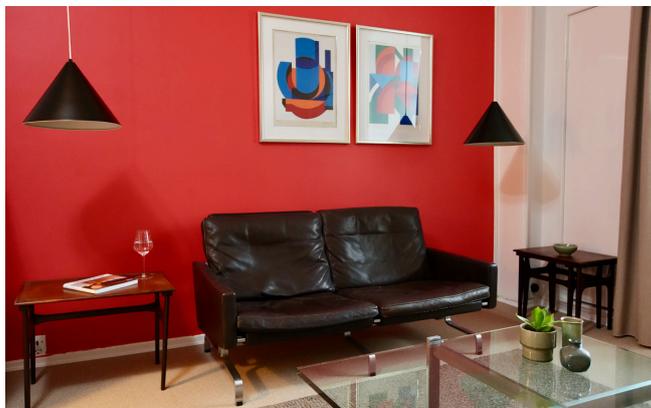


Photo credit Peter Mühlhausen



Another notable piece is the PK61 coffee table. This table features a minimalist steel base with a floating glass top, creating a sense of lightness and airiness despite the solidity of the materials.

The elegance of cool steel

Kjærholm's approach to design was deeply influenced by his respect for materials and his understanding of their unique properties. He often said that he saw steel as having the same artistic potential as other materials such as wood or stone. This perspective allowed him to explore new forms and structures, pushing the boundaries of what furniture could be. His innovative use of steel was not just about creating something new, but finding new ways to express beauty and functionality through design.

In addition to his work with steel, Kjærholm collaborated with other notable designers and architects, further cementing his legacy in the design world. His furniture has been featured in numerous exhibitions and is part of the permanent collections of prestigious museums around the world, including the Museum of Modern Art in New York and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.

Design classics by Poul Kjærholm

Poul Kjærholm

- PK2 little chair with sail yarn, 1956
- PK11 armchair, 1957
- PK22 lounge chair, 1956
- PK31-2 sofa, 1958
- PK61 coffee table, 1956

Krestine Kjærholm

- Unique woven bedspread
- KK200 woven rug

The Danish designer Krestine Kjærholm is the daughter of Poul Kjærholm. Many of Krestine's rugs are designed to her father's iconic furniture.

