

GUBI

PRESS RELEASE 2022

DAUMILLER ARMCHAIR

by Rainer Daumiller



REINTRODUCING A CLASSIC OF 1970S DANISH DESIGN

GUBI presents the Daumiller Armchair by Rainer Daumiller



Of all the furniture created by German-born designer Rainer Daumiller, the Daumiller Armchair in pine is perhaps the one that best expresses his values and approach as a designer. Solid in construction, simple in form, and sculptural in expression, its straightforward materiality and robust composition pay tribute to Daumiller's lifelong affinity with nature. Furthermore, the designer's choice of pine as his material demonstrates a dedication to sustainability that was ahead of its time.

Daumiller first had the idea for the armchair when he was living on a farm commune in the early 1970s, but it wasn't until he moved to Hirtshals on Denmark's Jutland coast in 1975, that he found the time to develop it properly. Inspired by the traditional Danish milking stool as well as the China Chair by Hans J. Wegner, Daumiller set out to create a chair that would be able to withstand both children's play and adults' parties, and at the same time have a sculptural form that radiated strength and timelessness.

Comfort was a major consideration. With no textiles or upholstery, Daumiller ensured that the seat is generously proportioned and that the wood itself is ergonomically adapted to the contours of the body, resulting in a chair that the user can comfortably remain seated in long after the meal is over. *"I do not perceive the chair as 'design', but as a logical result of good materials and good craftsmanship, made with today's tools, to meet the ergonomic and aesthetic requirements I expect of a good chair,"* says Rainer Daumiller.

At first, furniture manufacturers were uninterested in Daumiller's design, and the one that was – Hirtshals Sawmill – lacked the means to produce it at scale. The mill, however, did agree to exhibit the chair, if he could design a table to match. Daumiller did so and personally funded the manufacture of six chairs, which made their debut at the Bella Center furniture fair in 1977 and immediately caused a stir. They attracted admiration from many and derision from those with more elitist, reactionary views of what

Danish design should look like. With 250 orders placed at the fair, Hirtshals Sawmill invested in the machinery to manufacture them.

Launched at a time when awareness of sustainable forestry was widening, and tapping into a growing appreciation for alternatives to less renewable woods, the pine armchair became a bestseller. Its success kickstarted a collaboration between the designer and the sawmill that lasted for over two decades. The Daumiller Armchair remained a beloved piece among aficionados of Scandinavian design long after production ceased.

Now, with interest in 1970s furniture and retro aesthetics on the rise, a renaissance in pine as a furniture material, and an Instagram-fueled rediscovery of Daumiller's design legacy well underway, GUBI is honored to return the Daumiller Armchair to the market. Working in collaboration with Rainer Daumiller himself, GUBI has brought the original design back into production, making the chair available in a lacquered golden pine. When asked about the reintroduction, Daumiller elaborates: *"I consider it a great recognition of my design that GUBI after so many years will put the furniture back into production. I am very honored that my furniture is coming up again, that my designs have a timeless element making them relevant again and again, and that they have their own style and expression."*

Marie Kristine Schmidt, Chief Marketing Officer at GUBI, says: *"Rainer Daumiller's pine armchair has all the qualities of truly great Danish design: it's timeless in its form, true to its material, and focused on its function. There's nothing unnecessary or solely decorative about it. Part of its allure comes from the pine itself – it's a beautifully veined timber, and its lightness allows for rounded, sculptural expressions. It really is wonderful to have worked with Rainer himself on bringing this extraordinary design back to life."*

Giving a Danish design classic the international recognition it deserves, the new GUBI edition captures the complexity of Daumiller's craftsmanship and skill with solid wood. Because the connections between components are highly visible compared to most other chairs, precision is essential, and the most exact detailing is needed. The chair's generous seat and three-part arms and backrest are carefully milled to achieve the necessary curvature, and finished by hand. The combination of material, design features and joinery process ensures the armchair offers the highest possible degree of comfort and support for the sitter – in part made possible by the fact that pine is a softwood, and thus receptive to the kind of contours Daumiller's design demands.

Another benefit of pine is that, although the chair has a chunky, heavyweight appearance, it is relatively light. This is particularly beneficial given that – in order to accommodate the fact that people have generally grown taller since the chair's original launch – the seat height has been raised. As a wood, pine has an engaging visual texture, thanks to the interplay of light and dark veins running through it and the knots scattered across the surface, giving each Daumiller Armchair a personality of its own. Contoured for comfort when sitting and built for durability, the Daumiller Armchair is a confident expression of materiality, issuing an invitation to fall in love with pine every bit as deeply as its creator did.

Whether working in synthetic materials or in his beloved pine, Rainer Daumiller always demonstrated an acute understanding of his medium. His ability to 'listen to materials' mean that his designs were always inspired by the inherent characteristics of what they were made from. His most celebrated works, including the Daumiller Armchair, were in natural materials, and could almost be described as collaborations with nature, rather than the singular visions of an individual designer.

PRODUCT INFORMATION

In stores

Available from mid-October 2022.

Recommended retail prices

4,999 DKK

6,999 SEK

6,999 NOK

599 GBP

699 EUR

1,299 AUD

899 USD

Dimensions

Depth: 49 cm / 19.3 inch

Width: 61 cm / 24 inch

Height: 77,5 cm / 30.5 inch

Seat height: 47,5 cm / 18.7 inch

Materials

Pine, steel bolts and washers.

Color

Golden pine

For further inspiration please contact

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