



Twentieth Century Design Icons  
no. 7

“Model CH43 Chair”  
by  
Hans J. Wegner  
(1915-2007)

THE MODEL CH43 CHAIR of Hans J. Wegner is a stacking chair with a beech frame, and a seat of woven linen.

It was designed in 1963 for Carl Hansen & Søn A/S of Aarup, near Odense in Denmark (the “CH” in the model number refers to the original manufacturer), a firm which exclusively manufactures furniture to Wegner’s designs. It is one of two companies – the other being Getama Danmark A/S – licensed by Wegner to produce his furniture.



The association between Wegner and Carl Hansen & Søn dates back to 1949, with the legendary “Wishbone Chair”. Sadly, although Hansens continue to produce many of Wegner’s other designs, the CH43 is no longer in production. Possibly this is because the CH43 bears a superficial resemblance to the more common model 611 design of Alvar Aalto; though, on closer inspection, the similarities are more apparent than real. Possibly it is because buyers of Wegner chairs mistakenly regard the CH43 as a less permanent and enduring example of the master’s work than many of his other, seemingly more “solid”, designs.

Whatever the explanation, the fact is that this original vintage classic is no longer being made. For collectors of genuine Wegner models, this means that the only opportunity to own a licensed CH43 chair is by purchasing second-hand items.