

RICHARD RIEMERSCHMID
(1868-1957)

CHAIR
(c. 1902)

Oiled solid oak & straw.

CM	IN
H. 79	H. 31
L. 48	W. 18.75
P. 50	D. 19.75

RICHARD RIEMERSCHMID (1868-1957)

Artist and architect Richard Riemerschmid was born in Munich on June 20, 1868. From 1887 to 1889, he studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Munich.

In 1895, he married the actress Ida Hofmann (1873-1963), for whom he designed an Art Nouveau Villa, inspired by an English cottage.
In 1899, Riemerschmid presented the Music Room at the German Art Exhibition in Dresden, followed in 1900 by A Room for an Art Enthusiast at the Paris World's Fair. These interiors are among the defining examples of German Jugendstil.

Between 1900 and 1901, he contributed to the interior decoration of the Schauspielhaus theatre, designed by Max Littmann on Munich's Maximilianstraße. His style developed further through numerous private architectural commissions, for which he designed most of the furniture, rugs, ceramics, and other decorative elements.

The Chair, c. 1902, crafted in oak and straw, is held in the permanent collection of the Musée d'Orsay. It dates from the period during which Riemerschmid developed the concept of Maschinenmöbel (machine-made furniture), in collaboration with Karl Schmidt, founder of the company Deutsche Werkstätten Hellerau GmbH. Combining affordability with aesthetic refinement, the furniture was designed for serial production using standardized, detachable components. This approach reduced its bulk during transport while preserving its functional and visual integrity.

One of the founding members of the Deutscher Werkbund (DWB), established in 1907 alongside Peter Behrens, Peter Bruckmann, Josef Maria Olbrich, Fritz Schumacher and Hermann Muthesius, Riemerschmid served as its president from 1921 to 1926. The association brought together architects, decorative artists, designers, craftspeople and industrialists around a shared ambition: to create new forms through industrial techniques suited to the needs of their time.

From 1907 to 1913, Karl Schmidt commissioned Riemerschmid to plan Germany's first garden city, Hellerau, near Dresden. From 1909 onward, he also contributed to the development of the garden city of Nuremberg.

In 1910, the Paris Salon d'Automne presented an exhibition of Bavarian applied arts on the theme of "The Home of an Art Enthusiast". Richard Riemerschmid was commissioned to design the Master Bedroom. In this interior, the simplicity of the ornamental details and the emphasis on functionality create a sense of unity.
Driven by his commitment to mass production, Riemerschmid designed prefabricated wooden houses for the garden city of Pullach, including the Brigitte IV model, built in 1926.

In 1913, Riemerschmid was appointed Director of the Kunstgewerbeschule (School of Applied Arts) in Munich. From 1925 to 1931, he headed the Werkschule (vocational arts school) in Cologne.

Richard Riemerschmid died on April 13, 1957, at the age of 88.











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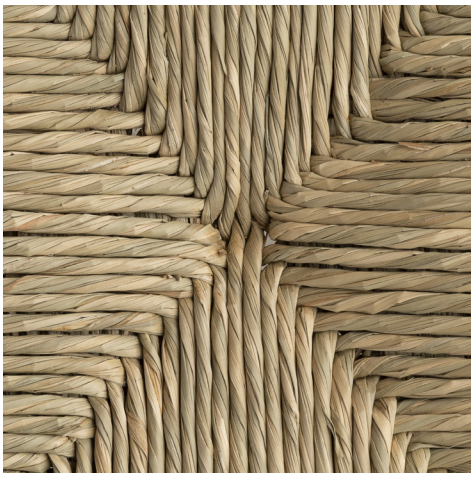
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STRAW

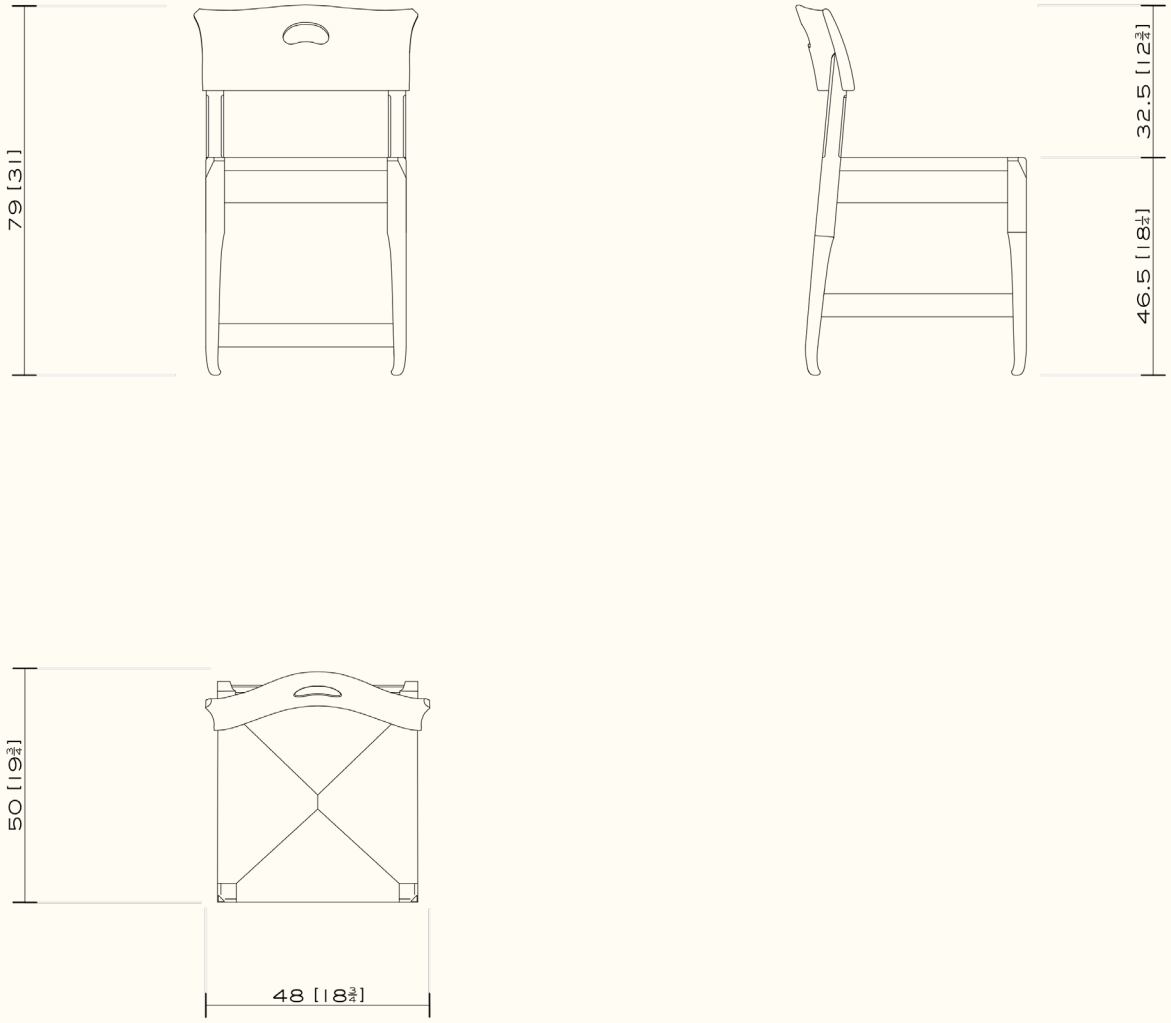


Natural Straw

WOOD



Smooth oiled oak



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Wood: Solid oak.
Finish: Smooth with oiled finish

Reproduction of a piece from the Musée d'Orsay's collections.
Limited edition of 100.

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