

Design Classic: Eames® House Bird

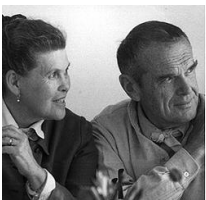


For decades, the carved figure of a wooden bird has occupied a central place in the Eames House, as an especially prized artefact among the possessions of Charles and Ray Eames. They frequently used the House Bird as a decorative object in photo shoots.

Charles and Ray Eames enriched the collage-like interior of their private home, the Eames House, with numerous objects and accessories that they brought back from their travels. For over fifty years, the figure of a wooden bird has stood in the centre of the living room – an artefact of American folk art that was evidently highly treasured by the couple, since it also appeared frequently as an accessory in photographs taken by Charles and Ray.

The story of the Eames House Bird is less a story of Charles and Ray Eames and more one of Charles and Edna Perdwé. This husband and wife team from Henry, Illinois, passed on their gun repair business to their son in the 1930s and dedicated themselves to carving and painting bird decoys for hunters. A simple black bird Perdwé carved around 1910 became a highly sought-after model by quite a different audience in the 1950s, primarily for its minimal shape and dark colour. It was popularized by Charles and Ray Eames, who acquired one on their travels in the Appalachian Mountains. The wooden bird became a centre piece of the Eames living room and soon started to make an appearance in many of their product photo-shoots. It can even be seen in a 1952 cover of the *Architectural Review*, a solid shape among a grid created by Eames chairs.

Realizing the broad appeal of this simple decorative piece, Vitra has recently started reproducing them by creating 3D scans of the original. However, unlike Perdwé's versions, which were mostly carved out of pine, the Vitra version is made of solid alder with a black lacquer finish and steel wire legs. Its reappearance has brought the little black bird back to many mid-century inspired homes, where it often perches on top of furniture, elegant and unobtrusive at the same time.



Charles Eames
Ray Eames



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Finish options

Body: Alder Wood with black lacquer or Walnut

Legs: Steel wire, black

Dimensions: 278mmW x 85mmD x 276mmH

Authenticity certificate included

More informational available at www.vitra.com/eameshousebird

