



erik ole jørgensen

(1925 – 2002)

Whenever manufacturers have suggested to Erik Ole Jørgensen that he should use the fashionable colours of the time, he has always replied, “I’ll be creating those myself”.

Alongside his work as a furniture designer, where he has created a number of items that are now classics in the Danish furniture industry, Erik Ole Jørgensen has for more than 25 years put his stamp on Kvadrat’s textile collection with a large number of designs for upholstery as well as curtain material.

Erik Ole Jørgensen is a classic in himself, operating his own furniture production business from 1952–1972 and designing furniture for Erik Jørgensen’s furniture factory and Kvist Møbler, among others.

Erik Ole Jørgensen came from a family of craftsmen who were also very interested in art. He took an apprenticeship as an upholsterer, which led to the joiner’s trade and then on to furniture design. At the School of Art and Design, his instructors included Hans J. Wegner and Børge Mogensen.

It was something of a coincidence that led to Erik Ole Jørgensen’s working with textiles. In 1953, he took part in the guild of upholsterers’ new furniture competition and was awarded first prize. When he came to use textiles in his newly designed furniture, he realised that there were no textiles to match the modern idiom of the furniture. He therefore chose to design the textiles himself, subsequently getting them produced. This was the start of a long career in the textile industry as a consultant and textile designer.

Erik Ole Jørgensen’s inspiration came from the raw material. The processing gives the material its texture and other characteristics. Colours, patterns and weaving methods are all effective instruments that, combined, contribute to the finished fabric.

The colours are systematised and the same colour palette is used consistently. Nine base colours plus black and white. The colour system thus became something secure that you could rely on.

It’s no coincidence that Erik Ole Jørgensen’s design philosophy has functionality at its heart. The desire to make things in a simple, functional way while insisting on a social aim is the architect Erik Ole Jørgensen’s approach to textiles and furniture alike – a simple, utilitarian design along uncluttered lines.

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With his systematic approach and sense of colour, Erik Ole Jørgensen helped to develop some of the most beautiful textiles in Kvadrat's basic collection.

Erik Ole Jørgensen represents, in other words, the best in classic Scandinavian style. The highly effective, masculine approach to design is a hallmark of the "great generation" of designers that includes Jacobsen, Wegner, Mogensen, Klint and Kjærholm. The only criticism he expressed was that you couldn't sit on their furniture after the age of 50.