PADDED PAIMIO CHAIR

ALVAR AALTO

DANSK MØBEL KUNST

DANSK
MØBEL
KUNST

Alvar Aalto (1898-1976)
Finland

A rare upholstered *Paimio* chair

Designed 1933

Materials:
Birch and original textile

Dimensions:
W: 62 cm D: 86 cm H: 65 cm Seat: 49 cm

Made by:
Oy. Huonekalu-ja Rakennustyötehdas AB, Turku, Finland

Literature: Timo Keinänen et al., *Alvar Aalto – Designer*, Alvar Aalto Museum, 2002 p. 78 & 165

Price on request

PADDED PAIMIO CHAIR

ALVAR AALTO

DANSK MØBEL KUNST

Finnish architect and designer Alvar Aalto (1898-1976) is regarded as Finland's leading figure in the field of 20th Century Modernism. His work covers a wide span, from large-scale architectural projects, furniture and lighting design, to glassware, textiles and jewelry. Like his Danish contemporary Arne Jacobsen, Aalto combined architecture and design, regarding furniture and lighting as integral parts of the building and hence no less important than the architectural frame. It was characteristic of Aalto to treat each building as a complete work of art – right down to the furniture and light fittings. Most of his designs were thus made in connection with specific architectural projects.

In his early years as an architect, Aalto practiced the pure functionalist form, enabling his international breakthrough with renowned projects such as the Paimio Sanatorium (1929-1933), created in close collaboration with his wife and professional partner Aino Aalto. This revolutionary project marked the departure from the geometric modernism and is one of the strongest examples of Aalto's philosophy – from the building construction to the smallest interior details. This was the first new building to be fully furnished with Aalto's furniture, and the bent plywood *Paimio* chair has since become an international design icon. The sanatorium was designed to have an atmosphere that promoted health and recovery which was realized through a carefully designed combination of ample lights, soothing colours and lots of natural sunlight. It is said that the shape of the *Paimio* chair was designed at an angle that would assist the patient's breathing.

In 1933, the first major exhibition on Aalto's furniture design was held at London's Fortnum & Mason department store. The exhibition *Wood Only* presented a large collection of his furniture but also debuted new designs such as the present upholstered version of the *Paimio* chair. In this version, the bent plywood base is progressed with an upholstered seat and back which provides a complimentary weightiness to the slender frame. A more comfortable seating experience is thus achieved whilst preserving the sculptural elegance of the first version. The present chair is upholstered in original, green textile that likewise compliments the natural, warm tone of the birch wood.