

1. WING AND A PRAYER

BassamFellows' 'Mantis' chair, \$4190, has a powerful stance and arms just like the insect. livingedge.com.au

2. WOODEN WONDER

Handcrafted in timber, Riva 1920s 'Mia' chair, \$1450, is lightweight yet super strong. fanuli.com.au

3. PAST GLORY

Minotti's elegant 'Aston' chair, \$3531, is inspired by the traditional parlour or drawing room. dedece.com

4. SHAKE IT UP

Carl Hansen & Son's 'CH36' chair, \$1062, is influenced by the Shaker principles of simplicity and utility. cutdesign.com.au

5. SMART STACKER

Patricia Urquiola's 'Mathilda' chair for Moroso, from \$2320, has stackable trestle legs for support. bubfurniture.com.au

Form fitting

Much more than an aesthetic choice, the humble dining chair is a comfort piece that's best bought as a design original.



LUCY WEARS STELLA McCARTNEY SHIRT FROM PARLOUR X.

GUEST DESIGN EXPERT interior designer Meryl Hare of Hare + Klein (pictured with *Belle* interior design editor Lucy McCabc) believes in buying quality original chair designs, not copies. "I'm a big fan of Danish designer Hans J Wegner's designs including the 'Wishbone', 'Elbow' and the 'CH36' (right). This chair's

simple, clean lines reference Wegner's Shaker influence and his ambition in life "to design just one good chair". Beautifully constructed from oak or beech, it is hand finished with soap, oil or lacquer. "We have used this chair in a relaxed beach house, but it easily suits a sophisticated setting or a farmhouse. It's a classic!"