

Womb Chair and Ottoman  
Eero Saarinen





**WOMB CHAIR AND OTTOMAN** "When I approach an architectural problem," Eero Saarinen once said, "I try to think out the real significance of it. What is its essence and how can the total structure capture that essence?" Florence Knoll had put forth the challenge of creating "a chair she could curl up in." The Finnish-born architect and interior designer responded with the 1948 Womb chair, part of his breakthrough seating collection. With its steel rod base with a polished chrome finish and a frame upholstered in fabric over a fiberglass shell, the chair is designed to facilitate a relaxed sitting posture, providing emotional comfort and a sense of security-hence, the name "Womb," now one of Knoll's most recognizable designs.

**EERO SAARINEN** Son of the celebrated architect Eliel Saarinen, Eero was classically trained in sculpture and architecture. His collaboration with Charles Eames in 1937 led to the creation of the Organic Armchair. Made from plywood and foam rubber, it was the first three-dimensional shaped bucket armchair. Saarinen continued to develop this theme in the following years with designs that included the Grasshopper, Womb and Tulip chairs, all for Knoll. Among the many buildings for which he is known are Dulles Airport in Washington, D.C., and the TWA terminal at Kennedy International Airport in New York.



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