

# A design icon

*We all remember fidgeting on them as we sat through double maths - but now the humble school chair has been re-imagined by Somerset makers Scott & Taylor to become a design classic*



EVERY now and then a piece of furniture comes along that shouts iconic – and our latest discovery is these fantastic retro British school chairs created by mother and daughter duo Lesley Scott and Olivia Scott-Taylor. Created in their Somerset workshop, they are causing quite a stir in London.

We will admit it has taken us a while to discover these stunning chairs. Scott & Taylor was one of the select few brands chosen at the Liberty Best of British Design Open Call 2014. After queuing for six hours with more than 900 other design hopefuls, their chair caught the buyers' eye and their range of six designs, in addition to the increasingly popular online range, are now on sale at the iconic London department store.

As is often the case, necessity is the mother of invention and Lesley came up with the idea when she failed to find something completely different for her own kitchen. So she created her own by refurbishing a collection of original 1930s-1960s tube steel and ply school chairs and finished them with her signature hand painted designs. And while we all love upcycled original pieces, the originals proved problematic and Olivia came up with the

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idea of designing and manufacturing their own chair. The new chair retains the classic retro look and functional style of the original, but is built to suit modern dining. It also notched the original designs up the design spectrum with a spot of custom designs and a lacquered finish.

The Liberty chair features tubular steel frames and laminated beech backs with seats manufactured in Somerset using the same traditional methods and craftsmanship from before the ubiquitous plastic alternatives hit the market.

Each chair's signature stripes are hand painted on before final lacquering and together with the variety of graining patterns of the beech, ensures that each chair is a truly unique piece. The chairs have found themselves in a range of new restaurant and bar openings across the capital including the

Ted Baker-designed Strut and Cluck, Bacaro and the refurbished Two Floors bar in Soho. They have now spread their design across the Atlantic with a special commission of 50 chairs for a new restaurant opening soon in San Francisco. ♦

*Find out more about this design icon at [scottandtaylorlondon.com](http://scottandtaylorlondon.com). The Liberty collection is exclusively at Liberty London. Chairs range from £165-195.*