

# Designers

Philippe Starck

Sarah Pook  
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Final version

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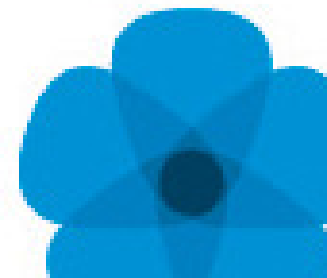
# Overview

## **This document contains...**

Information about the life and work of Philippe Starck

## **Points to consider when using this resource**

Please add and amend as necessary



# Designers

Philippe Starck

Philippe  
Stark-18<sup>th</sup>  
January 1949



- Philippe Starck has been a recognised designer since the 1980s. He started his road to success in the late 1960s, when he established an inflatable furnishings company. He then worked with the inventive and experimental designer Pierre Cardin, for a short time. By the 1970s, Starck had set up his own design studio in Paris (Starck Products), building a reputation as a pioneer in the world of design. He initially concentrated on interior designs and later products.
- Starck first achieved international attention by refurbishing French President François Mitterrand's, private apartment in the Elysee Palace, in 1982. He has designed products for well-known companies such as Alessi, Kartell, Microsoft and Puma. Starck designed the interiors for night clubs (La Main Bleue 1976), hotels (Royalton 1988 and Paramount hotels 1990, in New York) and restaurants (Café Costes 1984).



- Starck's designs can be regarded as post modern, although they include elements of the Memphis design movement, pop art and surrealism, with a hint of humour, environmental awareness, not to mention, invention. His products are regularly often manufactured from materials, not normally associated with the product. A continuing feature of his designs, is that they are inspirational and regarded as 'designer' products, rather than focussing entirely on functionality.
- Like many designers, Starck is an idealist and has sort to design products, that are both affordable and desirable to a mass market. Starck calls this 'democratic design', the aim being to improve life, for the greatest number of people.







## Juicy Salif

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Philippe Starck's 'Juicy Salif' - Citrus Squeezer (1990) is a design classic and an iconic product. It is said that the original design was sketched on a napkin whilst Philippe was on holiday in Italy.

A piece of sculpture more than a functional object, as it does not have a base to collect the juice. This fact has not damaged its popularity and it is one of Starck's most recognisable designs. The Juicy Salif deserves to be the centre piece on the table, rather than storing it in a cupboard, waiting to be used.



Philippe Starck designed the Moto 6.5 motorcycle in 1995 for Aprilia. However, it did not fare as well as most of Starck's other designs and production ceased in 1997. Nevertheless, it is a stylish design, but the variable build quality, contributed to its demise.





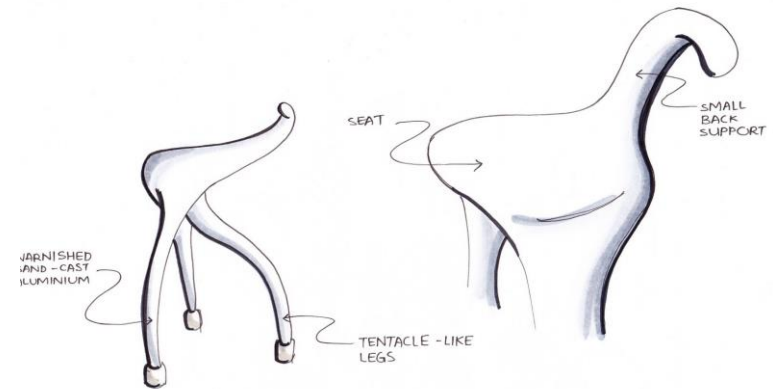
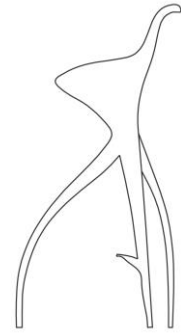
## La Marie Chair

Starck designed the worlds first polycarbonate chair, the 'La Marie Chair' in 1998, for Kartell of Italy. A translucent and slim chair, capable of withstanding knocks and blows and yet it is stylish. A durable and affordable product, that can be regarded as a design classic.



# W.W. Stool 1998

Over the course of a telephone conversation in 1988, the German film-maker Wim Wenders, known for *Paris, Texas* and *Wings of Desire*, asked Philippe Starck to design a chair that would enable him to work standing up in his office. The French designer accordingly sketched a fantastic sculptural and somewhat surrealistic office-furniture set. The chair was inspired by the lively beauty of plant growth, which in Starck's view could add magic to a workplace. The three legs of the W.W. Stool, which takes its name from the initials of the commissioner's name, were conceived as the budding roots of a plant, of which two shoots serve as back and footrest, respectively. Wim Wenders used his chair for years. In 2012 he donated it to the newly founded Wim Wenders Stiftung. In the meantime the design had been put into limited production by Vitra since 1990.





# Louis Ghost Arm Chair

Starck continued to design chairs, as seen with the Louis Ghost Arm Chair in 2001. It was designed for Kartell, and has sold over 1.5 million worldwide. A sturdy and long-lasting, transparent chair, for use inside and outside. Up to six chairs can be stacked in a column. It is another modern iconic design.





That means I bring this spark of colour to bring a little spark of life in all of this so invisible work.





## Exam Style Questions

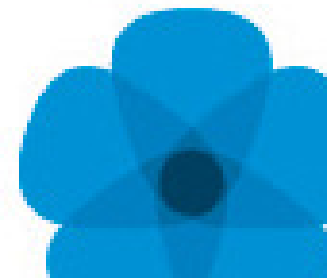
- Explain/describe Philippe Starck's background as a designer
- List 5 products designed by Philippe Starck
- Select 2 of the products from the previous question and explain why they are regarded as iconic designs

# Design and Technology

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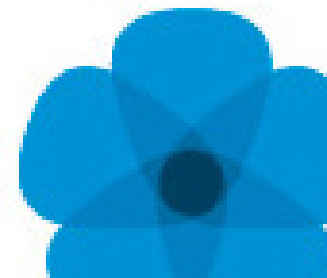
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