

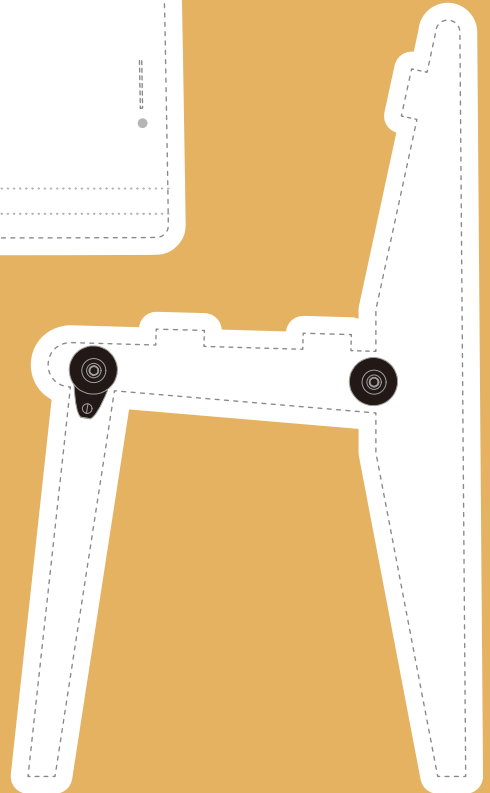
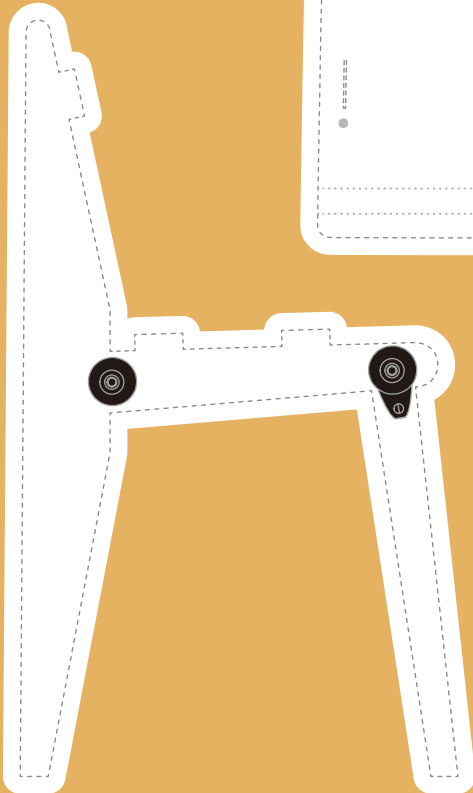
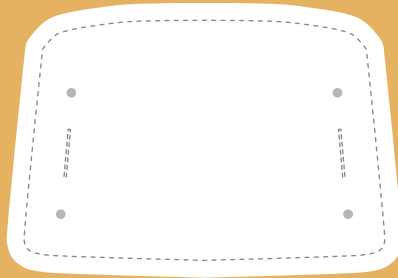
# Jean Prouvé

## Constructive Imagination

From Sat. 16 Jul -  
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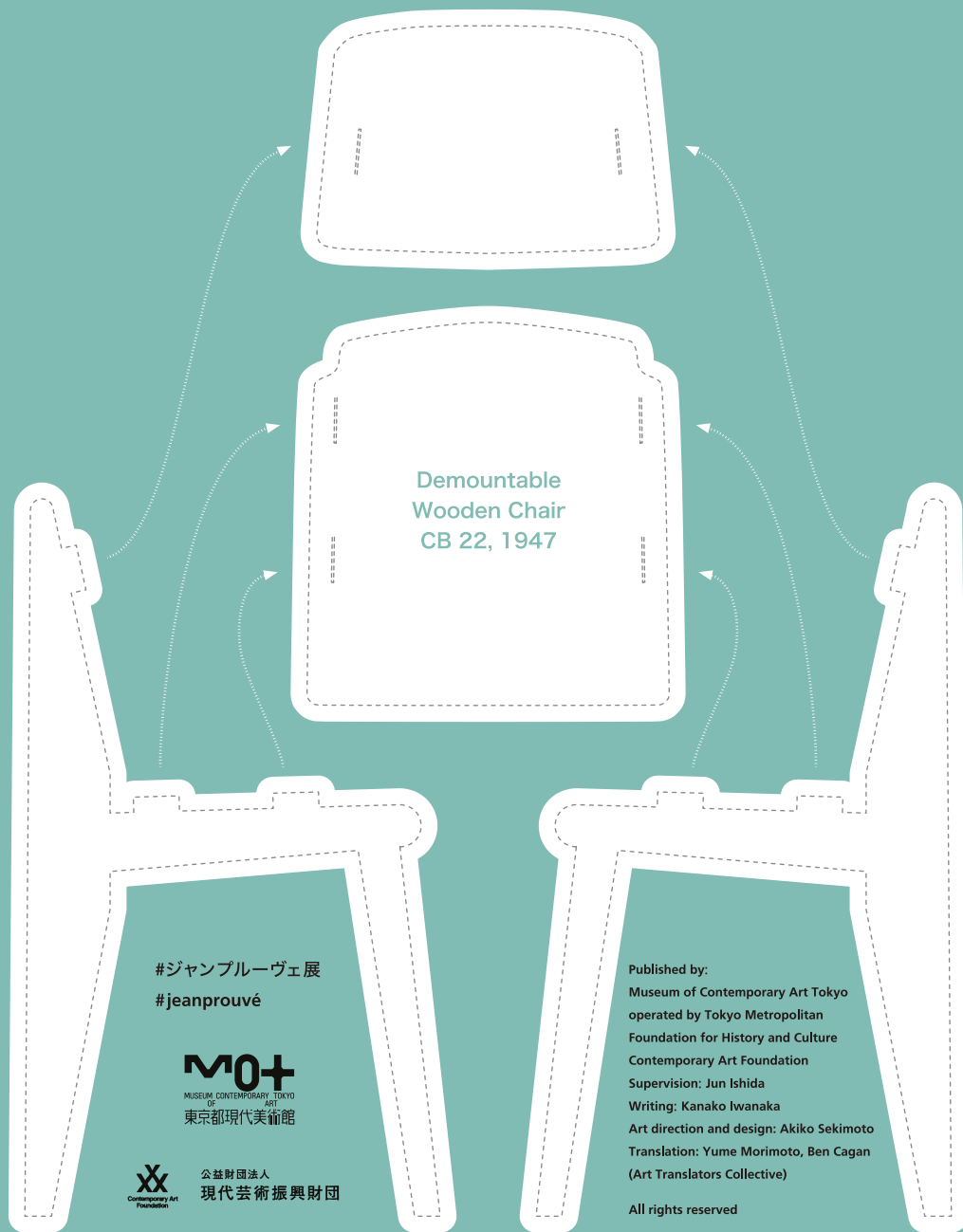
MUSEUM OF  
CONTEMPORARY  
ART TOKYO  
Exhibition Gallery 1F / B2F

Kids  
Guide



----- Cutting line  
..... Fold Line

Make your own original chair!



Demountable  
Wooden Chair  
CB 22, 1947

#ジャンプルーヴエ展  
#jeanprouvé

MOT  
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## 1 Who was Jean Prouvé?

He was born in Paris, France, in 1901. His father was a painter, and his mother was a musician. In 1904, his family moved to the city of Nancy, where he worked as a metal worker through his 20s and opened a factory at the age of 30. In 1944, he became the mayor of Nancy. He died in 1984 at the age of 82.

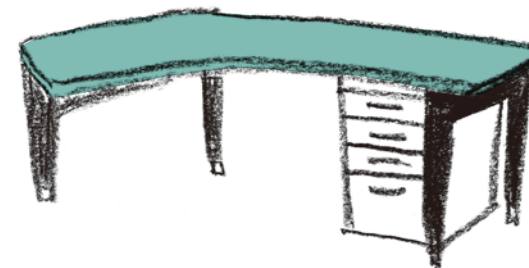


CONSTRUCTOR

Jean Prouvé called himself a “constructor” rather than an architect or designer. When designing furniture and buildings, he took part in the entire process – from figuring out how to make his ideas into reality to actually building them with his very own hands.

## 2 What does it mean to “industrialize” furniture and buildings?

While Prouvé thought craftsmanship was very important, he also tried using new materials and thought of ways to build more things in less time. His works are known for being both simple and beautiful.

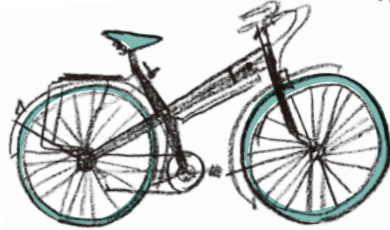


Q

The bicycle, stepladders and the chair and table legs, etc. They all have similarly shaped parts. What materials are they made of, and how are they made?

A

They are made of sheet steels, easy-to-handle metal. This type of metal is also used in cars. The light metal is folded to make the furniture legs very strong!



### 3 What are the chairs made of?

Prouvé's most well known work, commonly known as the "Standard Chair", was made for the first time in 1934. Since then, there have been changes to its shape, and the materials used, to suit the times.



Steel + wood



wood



Demountable  
(wood)



Demountable  
(steel + wood)



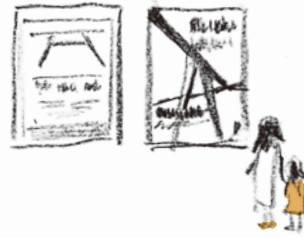
Steel + aluminum

What materials were used during which periods?

During the war, metal was in short supply, so the chair was made of wood. The chairs were easy to assemble and comfortable to sit in. There were many types made to suit the user, location, and climate. They were made for schools, homes, and companies etc.

## 4 Printed material on his furniture and buildings

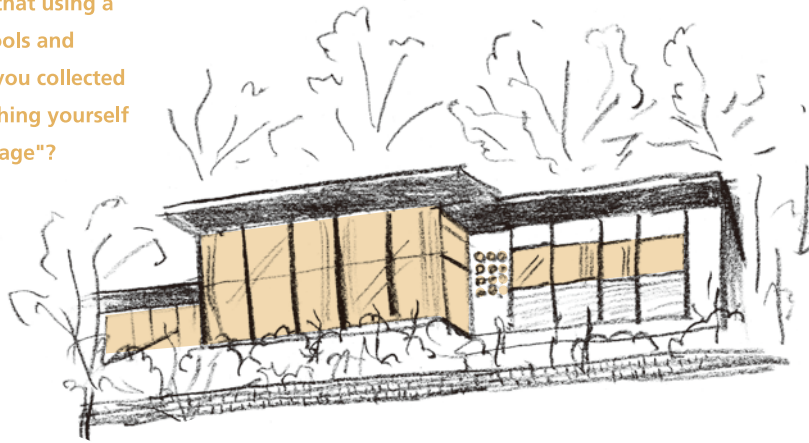
From the magazines and advertisements, we can see how Prouvé wanted to tell people about the functions and shapes of his creations.



## 5 What is Prouvé's house made of?

In 1954, Prouvé built a house for his family in Nancy. He assembled parts that had been thrown away in the factories to create a comfortable house.

Did you know that using a mishmash of tools and materials that you collected to make something yourself is called "bricolage"?

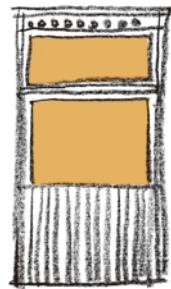


## 6 What was the ideal working environment for Prouvé?

After the war, in 1947, he moved his factory to Maxéville, a suburb of Nancy. Using large new machinery allowed Prouvé to draft and sketch his ideas one day, and prototype them the next. This made for an ideal working environment.

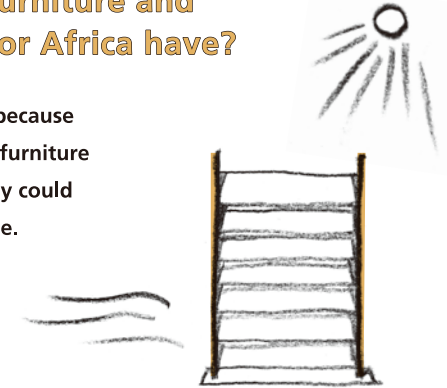
Everyone in the factory talked and worked together to build things. The money from the products they sold was divided among everyone.

In Prouvé's works, we can often see a single part having several functions. For example, this panel is designed to help air flow and keep hot air out!



## 7 What special traits do the furniture and buildings that were made for Africa have?

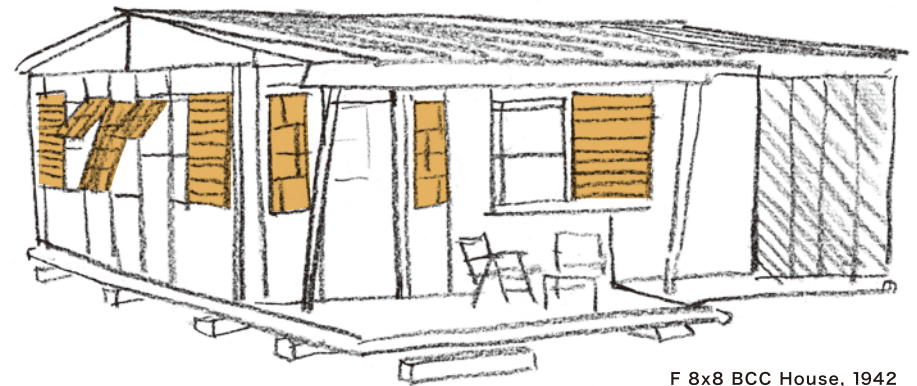
The houses built for Africa always feel cool inside because they feature ventilation and shade. Since Prouvé's furniture and buildings can be taken apart (dismantled), they could easily be transported from France to Africa by plane.



## 8 Let's look at the assembled and dismantled buildings!

The easy assembly and dismantling of Prouvé's houses made it possible to build many cheap and comfortable houses quickly, even when there was a shortage after the war. Today, they are also praised for being environmentally friendly.

This exhibition features three buildings that are mountable and dismantlable. The 6x6 dismantlable house, created in 1944, can be assembled by six adults in six hours.



F 8x8 BCC House, 1942



What is the house made out of?

The same sheet steels used for the furniture are also used for the building.