

- Which of the following aspects make this chair an object of everyday use and which makes it a luxury item?

OBJECT OF EVERYDAY USE	LUXURY OBJECT
CONSTRUCTION	
FUNCTION	
DESIGN	
VALUE	

- Would you like to have such a chair at home? If so, would you include it into your home as an exclusive, one-of-a-kind piece or would you use it as an ordinary piece of furniture?



SELECTED AND RECOMMENDED LITERATURE:

DURBIN, Gail – MORRIS, Susan – WILKINSON, Sue: *A Teachers' Guide to Learning from Objects*, London: English Heritage, 1990.
 KARASOVÁ, Daniela: *The History of Modern Furniture Design*, Prague – Revnice: UPM and Arbor Vitae, 2012.
 ŠVESTKA, Jiří – VLČEK, Tomáš et al: *Czech Cubism 1909–1925: Art, Architecture, Design*, Prague: Modernista, 2006.
 VLČKOVÁ, Lucie: *Czech Cubism: A guide to the permanent exhibition of the Museum of Decorative Arts in Prague*, Prague: Museum of Decorative Arts in Prague, 2015.

AN ORDINARY CHAIR OR A PRECIOUS OBJECT FOR DISPLAY?

Worksheets to the Czech Cubism exhibition in the House at the Black Madonna
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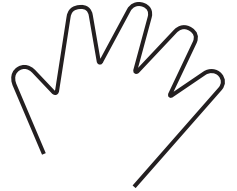
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AN ORDINARY CHAIR OR A PRECIOUS OBJECT FOR DISPLAY?



Dear visitors:

You are welcome to sit on the two replicas of the Cubist chairs. What can they tell us about themselves?



VLASTISLAV HOFMAN (1884–1964)
 CHAIR FROM A SET OF DINING ROOM FURNITURE FOR SCULPTOR JOSEF MAŘATKA, 1911–1912
 The replica of the chair was produced by Modernista Co.
 Stained oak, leather

PAVEL JANÁK (1882–1956)
 CHAIR FROM A SET OF FURNITURE FOR HISTORIAN JOSEF BOROVIČKA, 1911–1912
 The replica of the chair was produced by Modernista Co.
 Oak, stained walnut



Have these chairs anything in common? How do they differ? Choose one, inspect it carefully and write down your observations and ideas. The original chairs are exhibited on the upper floor and their labels will tell you more about them.

Have fun,
 Your museum

EXAMINING THE CHAIR

THEMES FOR THOUGHT	OTHER QUESTIONS	THINGS DISCOVERED THROUGH CLOSE INSPECTION	THINGS TO BE EXAMINED
<p>PHYSICAL PROPERTIES What does the chair look like?</p>	<p>Is it complete? Is it in good condition or is it repaired? What material is it made of? What is its colour?</p>		
<p>CONSTRUCTION How was it made?</p>	<p>Is it hand- or machine-made? Of one piece or individual parts? (E.g., how were the parts connected?) What is its surface treatment?</p>		
<p>FUNCTION What is its purpose?</p>	<p>Does it serve its purpose well? Is it stable? Can it be handled well? Where could it have been used? (dining room, study, living room, ...) Could its function have changed over time?</p>		
<p>DESIGN Is it well designed?</p>	<p>Is it comfortable? Is it made of suitable material? Is its shape inspired by any of the geometric solids? Does it have any decoration? Is it exceptional in any way? What is prevalent: its function or aesthetic appeal? Or is it a balanced combination of both? Do you find it to be a historical piece of the past or can you also imagine it in today's interior?</p>		
<p>VALUE (historical, cultural, financial, personal) What was/is its value:</p>	<p>For those who designed it? For those who used it? For those who own it today? For you? For society? For the museum? For collectors?</p>		