

Nicholas Gioia and the 'Arachnid' aluminium cafe chair: 'evocative framework of the mammalian body'. Makers Tropitone liken it to a spacecraft.

Sitting Ovation

They're art objects designed by architects. They're also chairs suitable for mass production and everyday use. KIM LANGLEY looks at an exhibition that furnishes something for everybody.

QUENTIN JONES



IMAGINE, FOR a moment, life without the chair. No chair to sit on at breakfast; no sofa to lounge on in the evening; no ergonomic chair to squat on in the office; no stool to perch on at the bar; no pew in church; no bench in the park; no seat in the plane, the train, the bus or the car; no chair in the restaurant or the doctor's waiting room.

Yet few people consider how much we rely on chairs for support. In fact, unless they're uncomfortable or particularly unusual, we seldom think of chairs at all.

Not so 20 leading Australian architects and 20 furniture manufacturers. At the behest of the NSW chapter of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, the groups have paired up to produce *The Australian Chair* and the results of their work will be exhibited in Sydney from next Monday. A selection is shown here.

The exhibition's organiser, Craig Bremner, says its aim is to bring manufacturers and architects together to produce chairs which are ongoing production items — not objets d'art you can't ▷

Ed Lippmann and his 'Leggera', a steel and timber chaise longue. Made by Pongrass Industries, it comes with a cushion and converts to a lounge chair.

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