



## Ernst Moeckl

**"Dedicated to all those who dare to be as different and as independent as this chair."**

Ernst Moeckl's work is an expression of a consistent design philosophy. It does not follow trends, but rather a clear idea of form, function, and construction. His designs combine individuality with technical precision and reflect an understanding of design that always considers material and production.

**1931**

**Born on October 21**

**Studied at the Ulm School of Design**

**Founded his own design company**

**Product designer with a focus on industrial and everyday products**

**Key works**

**Ulm door handle with Max Bill**

**Menu cutlery**

**Designs with a focus on plastic design**

Born in 1931, Ernst Moeckl belongs to the generation of designers who played a decisive role in shaping German product design after the Second World War. His education at the Ulm School of Design provided him with a systemic understanding of design. Here, design was conceived as an interface between technology, society, and use—an approach that informs his entire body of work.

After completing his studies, Moeckl founded his own company and worked as an independent product designer. His work ranges from furniture to everyday objects and is consistently defined by functional precision and formal reduction. Among his best-known works is the Ulm door handle, developed together with Max Bill, which is still regarded today as the epitome of objective, functional design. In the field of cutlery design, he also combined ergonomic requirements with a clear formal language.

Moeckl's designs are exemplary of a time when new materials and industrial production methods fundamentally transformed design. The use of plastics in particular opened up new creative possibilities, which he consistently explored. His work moves between innovation and everyday usability, combining experimental approaches with precise execution.

**1979**  
**Awarded by the Design**  
**Center Stuttgart**

Ernst Moeckl received multiple awards for his work, including recognition from the Design Center Stuttgart in 1979. Today, his designs are part of museum collections such as the Pinakothek der Moderne in Munich, underscoring his lasting relevance to product design.

Ernst Moeckl passed away on June 15, 2013, in the Stuttgart region.



The Z.Stuhl by Ernst Moeckl exemplifies the spirit of design innovation that marked the plastics age of the 1970s. As an early cantilever chair, manufactured from high-quality plastic in a single moulding process, it was both a technical and formal innovation. The fluidly shaped seat shell with integrated backrest transitions seamlessly into the characteristic runner-like legs, forming a unified whole.

Its quality lies in the interplay of construction and comfort. The softly contoured form supports an ergonomic sitting posture, while the flexible structure allows for movement. In this way, the Z.Stuhl combines visual lightness with functional precision.



Originally produced in a range of colour variants and part of a larger furniture collection, the chair found broad application across different areas of life. Its durable surface and clear formal language make it suitable for use in living spaces, work environments, and outdoor settings.

Notably, it was distributed in both East and West Germany. The Z.Stuhl was equally appreciated in both parts of the country and became a defining object of its time. Today, it is regarded as a classic of the 20th century and stands for an experimental approach to new materials in design.



In keeping with its original dedication, the Z.Stuhl is aimed at people who value individuality and understand design as an expression of attitude.

In its current re-edition, the design has been carefully refined. The seat height has been adjusted to meet contemporary ergonomic standards. The Z.Stuhl is now produced using an injection moulding process, ensuring that its characteristic form continues to be created in a single, continuous production process. In this way, Moeckl's original idea is brought into the present and made newly accessible as a timeless object between design history and contemporary living.

**1971–2026**  
**The Z.Stuhl, then and**  
**now**