

A Day in the life

MidCentury asked Robin and Lucienne's daughter *Paula Day* to recount some of the stories behind his work. Here, she focuses on her memories of eight classic Robin Day designs, and shares rarely seen photographs including the pieces in place in the family's Cheyne Walk home in London.

Robin Day was one of Britain's most celebrated 20th century furniture designers, with a career that spanned nearly seven decades. Alongside his wife Lucienne, he was at the forefront of innovative mid-century design in the UK.

Through the work of the Robin and Lucienne Day Foundation and in honour of his centenary year in 2015, some of his designs are being reissued and celebrated, with collaborations ranging from an installation at London's V&A Museum to the re-launch of his world famous polypropylene chair at John Lewis.





1952

Reclining chair

In his last years, my father described the clearly articulated structure of the Reclining Chair. He explained how the slim steel rod frame cradles a shaped upholstered unit and timber arms, which can also serve as shelves for glasses and the like.

He must have rated the design as he chose it for his own easy chair. Its lean angular form had great presence in the open-plan Cheyne Walk living room. Eventually it was joined by a High Wide and Handsome (1958), a big curving hug of a chair. The two made a striking contrast.

The London store twentytwentyone launched their British-made new production of the Reclining chair in 2012 and, in the summer of 2015, they created a celebratory Centenary Edition. I was hugely touched that ten of the country's foremost designers agreed to pay tribute to the design.