

Press Release

The Passenger Chair by Simon James

Inspired by the classic safari chair, Resident is proud to add Passenger to Simon James' immensely popular range of oak pieces.

The development of the Passenger Chair took over two and a half years going through many variations of iteration, particularly looking into the joint details and fixing of the leather harness. This piece infuses character into clean, uncomplicated yet raw forms and utilises the best of both hand and machine.

Product Description

A modern take on the original safari chair, the Passenger Chair blends its timber joinery with subtle connection points throughout the frame. Saddle leather offers forgiveness to the seat which will add character and warmth over time. This timeless profile will suit both commercial and residential environments that require a dining chair with arms for further exit support. The arms were designed intentionally slightly lower to allow for location under most tables.

Remarks from designer Simon James

I started designing the Passenger Chair two and a half years ago, I was originally intrigued with the classic safari chair so I set a brief to provide a modern take on this.

Through the design process I became intrigued with the blending of junction details between the arms and legs so decided to highlight these details. Traditionally it's a feature you choose to hide, but decided it was worthy of expression. I also focused on the idea of repetition, especially from the back, so all those vertical and horizontal elements when you have several chairs lined up at a table create a visual rhythm.

With all our Resident designs there is a certain rawness that we choose to celebrate. I think you can over-design a product so instead we choose to focus on one or two key details, rather than highlighting everything that might be possible, it's just one or two things in there that give it that little bit of magic or point of difference.

The Passenger Chair may read as modern, but at the same time, it could fit in a traditional environment as well. I wanted that crossover. It's suitable for the home around the dining table, but at the same time, it works in a hospitality environment.