

Chair/seating design



*Denham Maclaren
Armchair
c. 1930*

Glass, metal fittings, and zebra skin upholstery

This chair makes innovative use of industrial glass and metal fittings. The metal fittings are of a type more commonly used in shop fitting. In the late 1920s Denham Maclaren (1903-1989) worked for the interior decorators Arundell Clarke. He undertook display and exhibition work for them. This experience may have led him to experiment with glass as a material for furniture. Maclaren's chair was not only fashionable in its use of glass, but also in the choice of zebra skin upholstery. Many designers used animal skins of all kinds between World War I and II. The use of zebra added an exotic, even Surrealist, touch.

Armchair, with sides of thick, industrial glass, metal fittings, zebra skin upholstery, 68 x 57 x 85 cm.