Chair

Place of origin: Grand Rapids (made)
Date: 1936 (designed)

Artist/Maker: Wright, Frank Lloyd, born 1867 - died 1959 (designer)
Metal Office Furniture Company (makers)

Materials and Techniques: Armrests: Maple with a plastic laminate (similar to formica) on top of the maple substrate which has a wood-grain pattern.
Upholstery: wool fibre. Boucle effect (twisted yarn and raised pile). Top cover in good condition clean and unworn, probable not original.

Museum number: W.44-1981

Gallery location: Furniture, Room 135, The Dr Susan Weber Gallery, case BY7, shelf WALL

Public access description
Frank Lloyd Wright’s furniture was always part of an integrated architectural conception that he referred to as ‘Organic Architecture’. ‘It is quite impossible’, he wrote, ‘to consider the building as one thing and its furnishings as another’. For the headquarters of an American manufacturer of cleaning products Wright designed a range of metal and wood desks and matching chairs of which this is one. Although first designed in heavy sheet aluminium, then in tubular aluminium, these proposals were abandoned in favour of cheaper tubular steel. Wright’s use of tubular steel was very different from that of European Modernists but was indebted to aluminium furniture designed by his contemporary, the American Warren MacArthur. At Johnson Wax, different coloured upholstery was used for different office departments.

Descriptive line
Armchair designed by Frank Lloyd Wright for the S.C. Johnson Administration Building, 1936

Physical description
Painted steel with wood armrest and upholstered seat and back

Dimensions
Height: cm 90, Width: cm 61, Depth: 56.5

Museum number
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URL
http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O182810/chair-wright-frank-lloyd/