

# It's an affair with a chair



EVELYN ESHUN  
**DESIGNING WITH STYLE**

With a definition as simple as 'a movable seat for a single person,' there is no indication of the vast and numerous styles and types of chairs in existence.

The simple act of constructing an artificial place to sit distinguished humans from ani-

mals and allowed us to congregate with civility for a meal or conversation.

Since the first chair was reserved for use by kings, queens, pharaohs and religious leaders, it has become a useful and much necessary piece of furniture in all interiors.

From serving as Dad's throne by the TV to the place where Mom cradles the baby to sleep, it truly is one of the key items which makes a house a home.

Early forms of the ever-functional chair were typically heavy and chunky because of the handmade nature of the production techniques.

When production went to the factories in the early 18th century, not only did it become more affordable to own a chair, but the variety of styles became wider.

Of all furniture types, the chair presents the most complicated structural and design challenges, which has led to an incredibly vast array of designs, some of which are iconic and some are beautifully timeless.

The Furniture Bank is a valuable charity organization started by Sister Anne Schenck in 1998 which brings home pride and ownership to the most vulnerable in our society.

Each year, thousands of people are given a helping hand in furnishing their home through the generous donations and time which is provided by those who care to help. As with any other charitable organization, fundraising is the key to providing financial resources.

For the past five years, The Furniture Bank has organized the Chair Affair, where design professionals are asked to donate their time and expertise to re-upholster a chair for auction in order to raise money to continue providing valuable services to the community.

The public votes to select the chairs they liked best and the top 10 chairs qualify to be featured for an auction live streamed across the internet on the night of the fundraising gala.

I was asked to participate in this year's Chair Affair and was thrilled to extend my volunteering services beyond the regular time I have been giving monthly.

My experience began with picking a chair frame to be transformed. I was inspired to give a traditional frame a fresh and flirty personality with a combination of white velvet

Evelyn Eshun was inspired to give this chair a fresh and flirty personality with its combination of white velvet and a geometric orange and white fabric.



Any design should fit our lives and be functional while expressing our personalities and lifestyles, says Eshun.

and a geometric orange and white fabric from JF Fabrics.

The chair was lovingly re-upholstered by my trusted upholsterer at Barrington's Upholstery into a piece of furniture which is fun and formal, sophisticated yet casual.

The mandate for all designers was to express our personality and our 'selves' in the chair's transformation. I don't take myself too seriously and believe that design should fit our lives and be functional while expressing our personalities and lifestyles.

I believe in having fun and taking chances with our interior design choices. This chair is an expression of my mantra and outlook on life.

— *Evelyn Eshun is a Toronto-based designer known for her classic taste and eclectic style and has more than 15 years of experience creating custom design projects for the residential market. Visit her at [www.evelyneshun.com](http://www.evelyneshun.com).*

**Come to the Furniture Bank's Chair Affair for your chance to bid on Evelyn's unique creation designed especially for the event on Friday, Oct. 30. To learn more about the Chair Affair, visit [www.furniturebank.org/chairaffair](http://www.furniturebank.org/chairaffair).**



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