



Olivier Mourgue

Born 1939 in Paris, France



Olivier Mourgue

- Mourgue studied interior design at the 'Ecole Boulle' and furniture design at the 'l'École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Decoratifs' in Paris graduating in 1960.
- He trained from 1958 to 1961 in Finland and also in Sweden where he worked for Maurice Holland, Nordiska Kompaniet in Stockholm.
- From 1963 he worked with the French manufacturer 'Airborne International'
- At Airborne, Mourgue designed his well-known classic Djinn chairs (1965) made famous by *2001: A Space Odyssey* by Stanley Kubrick.
- Kubrick created a futuristic rotating Hilton hotel in Space with the Djinn featured in those scenes
- Stanley Kubrick destroyed all the sets and props of the movie, "afraid that they might fall into the hands of lesser directors and dilute the special beauty of his great work. A wise move, but sad news for collectors worldwide."
- Wally Fields

Kubrick
on the
2001 set



Rejoice! The Future is Now!



How can it be, on the eve of the Y2k, that Olivier Mourgue's blobby, undulating Djinn chairs in 2001's space-station lounge still look light years ahead of anything in our living rooms? *Mark Dery, "Back to the Future" 1999*

Kubrick was no lover of this Modernism ...this look that Kubrick seems to associate with bland, cold conformity evokes in me the opposite feeling. My creative side wakes up and cries, "Rejoice! The future is now!" *Wally Fields*



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Djinn Furniture

- Mourgue's Djinn furniture appears "fully functional and at the same time out of this world."
- Adapted from abstract biomorphic shapes, they are reminiscent of living beings, Djinns = the subservient spirits in Arabian fairy tales.
- With the gently rounded shapes, made possible by the foam-upholstered steel tube frame, Mourgue was able to pursue a new direction in furniture design that treats furniture as sculpture.
- "A sound piece of furniture can be easily moved and re-arranged... I designed the Djinn chair with this in mind. In this particular case I was attempting to achieve various aims: the use of new coverings... not forgetting a lightness that enabled you to carry them under your arm."



Djinn suite, 1965 steel frame with upholstery

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Djinn Furniture



'djinn' chaise-lounge, 1965



Manufactured from 1965 to 1975



Rare settee variation with armrests



Mourgue cont.

- While designing for 'Airborne International', Olivier Mourgue also worked as an interior designer for the 'Agence d'Architecture Interieure Gautier-Delays'.
- In 1966, Olivier Mourgue established his own design studio in Paris where he created furniture for French companies like Renault, Prisunic and Mobilier National. Mourgue also designed shop interiors and a factory in Tournus.
- In 1968, Olivier Mourgue created a chair which he named 'Cubique' which won the AID International Design Award.



Montreal chairs and sofa, 1960 - 1970

Bouloum Chaise

- The Bouloum was named after Mourgue's childhood friend
- Mourgue took the charismatic seat with him when he traveled... even going so far as photographing it in various situations and writing anecdotes.
- From hivemodern: "As comfortable as it is provocative, one simply must experience the Bouloum to fully understand it. But be warned ...once experienced, you will simply have to have one of your own.... it is that comfortable."



Bouloum Chaise, 1968



Visiona

- Olivier Mourgue's most 'fabulous yet most unknown' complete interior design project was made for Visiona by Bayer AG. From 1968 until 1972, Bayer AG hired the most talented designers worldwide to create entire futuristic displays on board a ship in Cologne, Germany.
- During Visiona, Olivier Mourgue created an entire natural landscape with rivers, carpets that resembled earth, grass, and other natural floor coverings, with modular movable rooms.
- The Visiona of Olivier Mourgue was a Utopia where man and nature lived side by side in peace. Olivier Mourgue's Visiona was one of the most memorable interior installations created for this project.



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Visiona



Morgue furniture at the "Visiona" in Cologne, 1972

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Later Years



Flower Floor
Lamp,
Aluminum,
chrome steel

- In 1976, Olivier Mourgue closed his studio in moved to Bretagne, France where he became a professor at the school of Fine Arts in Brest. Olivier Mourgue currently lives Plouguiel, a small town in Bretagne, France.
- The main manufacturer 'Airborne International' that produced his design, is no longer in business. The 'Bouloum' chair designed in 1969 for 'Airborne International' is now in production again through Arconas of Canada



A rare high-backed version of the **Joker chair**, with chromed steel frame and upholstered in black leather. Designed in circa 1975 for Airborne.

Other Pieces by Mourgue

Fabric painted
by Frances
Villard



Links

- <http://www.oliviermourgue.com>
- <http://www.designboom.com>
- http://www.objetdeco.com/objet/objet_chaise-213-designer.html
- <http://www.architonic.com>
- http://www.die-neue-sammlung.de/z/muenchen/sam/moebel/b0001_4_en.htm
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- <http://www.designandfun.com/interiors2.htm>
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