

HOSTLER BURROWS



BØRGE MOGENSEN (Danish, 1914-1972)

Unique Table, 1949

Giant sequoia burl, cherry

94" L x 38" W (at widest point) x 28"H

Description

The table, created for the 1949 Copenhagen Cabinetmakers' Guild exhibition, is unique and made from a piece of sequoia Mogensen received, which dictated the irregular shape of the top. The piece comes from a time when Mogensen began to work with more unusual materials in more untraditional styles, which can be seen in his treatment of the base; the freeform top rests on four sections of two-legged frames which run the width of the table rather than the full length. The pointed legs split as they meet the top, forming triangles that ensure stability. The unique leg-style combined with the asymmetrical lines create one of Mogensen's most distinctive, expressive designs.

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Børge Mogensen was a Danish trained architect and furniture designer, well known for his participation in propelling Danish mid-century modernism on a global scale. A pupil and protégé of the esteemed designer and professor Kaare Klint, Mogensen studied furniture design at the Copenhagen School of Arts and Crafts from 1936-38. Later, he studied at the School of Furniture at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts from 1938-41, where he also served as Klint's teaching assistant.

In 1950, Mogensen opened up his own firm, employing several renowned designers that helped contribute to the international success and popularity of the Danish Modern design aesthetic. Mogensen's pieces were highly functional and practical for everyday use. Early in his career, Mogensen's preferred material was wood, and his style akin to the clean and strong lines found in many of Klint's pieces, but as his design practice grew, he began experimenting with unconventional constructions and new materials.

Mogensen was a prolific furniture designer, exhibiting almost every year at the Copenhagen Cabinetmaker's Guild Exhibition, where he subtly incorporated new ideas into traditional forms. It was in these exhibitions that he presented his iconic "Unique Sequoia Table" (1949) and his "Spanish Chairs" (1959).

He received several notable awards, including the Eckersberg Medal in 1950, the annual prize from the Copenhagen Carpentry Guild in 1953, and the C.F. Hansen Medal in 1972.