

# CAMPING FURNITURE

history. evolution. future

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Three posters on the design evolution of camping furniture and possible future of camping furniture design.

Camping furniture in:  
British colonial India  
Nordic bronze age  
The year 2121

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# CAMPING FURNITURE IN COLONIAL INDIA



## ORIGIN

*Hunting was a popular sport during the British raj. To camp in style, this type of folding furniture was developed in the late-1800s. These were light, portable and versatile.*

## USERS

*High-ranking officers, nobles, Indian princes, anyone who could travel with many servants and vehicles.*

## MATERIAL

*Teakwood frame  
plywood seat.*

## LOCATION

*Pre-partition  
India during  
colonial period.*





# CAMPING FURNITURE

NORDIC BRONZE AGE

## USAGE

A raised seat was a rare privilege, only for the head of the clan or senior members. Ordinary folks sat on the ground. The foldable stool was taken along on hunting and battle expeditions.

The above chair is a re-interpretation of a colonial era camping chair using motifs of the Nordic bronze age.



DAENSEN  
STOOL (1400BC)

## MATERIAL

So that they could be carried easily on ships, the chairs were backless (stools) with a wooden (maple or ash) frame and leather seat. They were foldable and lightweight. Bronze pins were used as pivots.

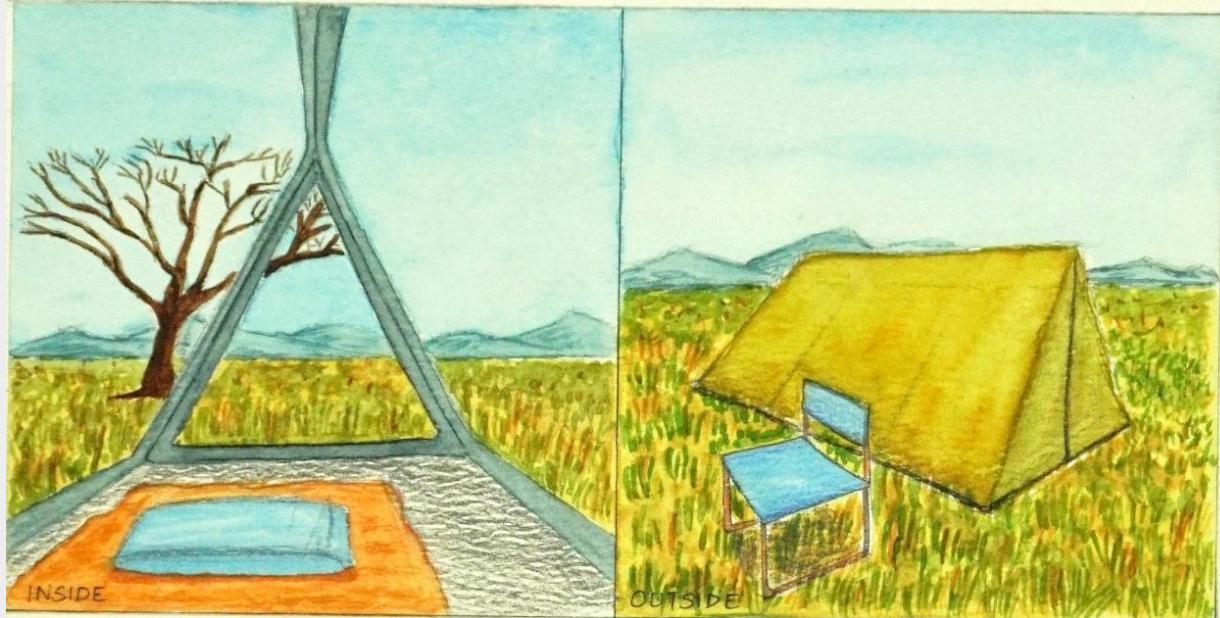
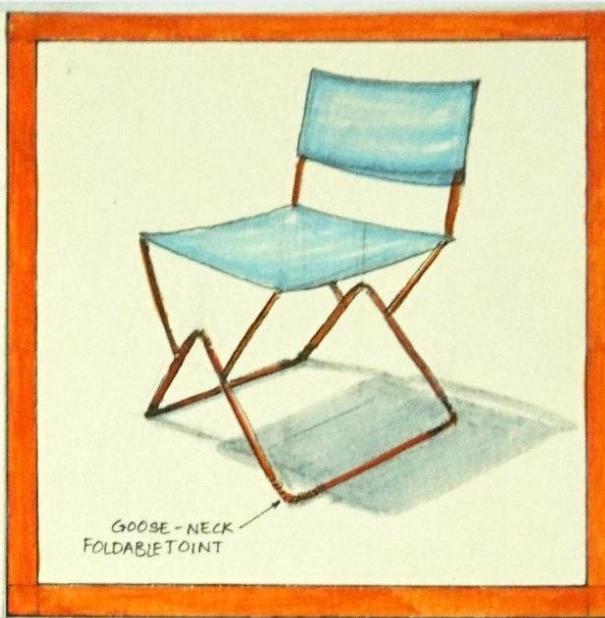
## ORIGIN

The Nordic people, in their bronze age (1750-500 BC), were divided into clans. On small canoe shaped ships they led raids on neighbouring clans in northern Europe. Due to their seafaring nature, they led a frugal and spartan life which shows in their furniture designs which were few and simplistic. The clan heads used a simple folding stool as a seat. Till date, only a few foldable stools have been dug-up intact from tumuli and burial sites.



# CAMPING FURNITURE

IN  
TECH



## ▲ CHAIR

A foldable chair whose seat is made of a light and strong composite fabric. The legs will be made of very high strength polymers allowing them to be very thin while bearing a large load. The joints are very discrete goose-neck joints.

## SOCIETY

In a hundred years, the world will have changed: Cities depopulated. Rise of nomadic people working from secluded locations while roaming the world alone. Everyone will work remotely. Factories will be operated entirely by automated robots and machines. Better food security and hence more disposable income will allow anyone to travel the remotest areas of the world. In this context, I have imagined a tent and a camping chair for a solo traveller.

## ▲ TENT

Usually, a tent is made of opaque cloth with no provision for seeing the outside world. However, in this case, the cloth is made of an advanced material that has one-sided transparency. The person inside will be able to see outside, while from the outside it is a plain tent. For it to work, the technology will require less light inside the tent than outside. Another sort of technology that may be used is the one used in windows and doors of banks where an advert is stuck on a door or window.



FULLY FOLDED.

## ▲ FOLD

Due to its high strength components which allow the legs to be very thin, the chair folds into the size of a folded umbrella which can be carried inside a backpack or a handbag.

# RESOURCES

## WEB

mode.org - The museum of design excellence, Mumbai

artsandculture.google.com - Beyond the throne

disd.edu - Exploring the chair through history

npr.org - Better sit down for this one

## BOOK

Now I sit me down: From Klismos to plastic chair  
by Witold Rybczynski

### MODE

[https://artsandculture.google.com/story/AgWhE\\_B1vhUNIA](https://artsandculture.google.com/story/AgWhE_B1vhUNIA)

### NPR

[Better Sit Down For This One: An Exciting Book About The History Of Chairs : NPR](#)

### DISD

[Exploring the Chair Throughout History by Design Institute \(disd.edu\)](#)