

# Cassina

**Cassina supports a research to expand on the origins of the Chandigarh project by Le Corbusier  
And presents 4 products, *Hommage à Pierre Jeanneret*, from the *Capitol Complex***

## **Explore and preserve the work of Le Corbusier**

The inclusion of Le Corbusier's architectural work in the UNESCO Cultural Heritage List in 2016 has raised great interest in the Chandigarh project implemented from 1951 to celebrate the independence of a nation opening up to modernity.

Considering that Cassina has always been committed to examining the works of the great architects, part of the *Cassina I Maestri Collection*, the company has decided to support an in-depth research into Chandigarh. Promoted by the Fondation Le Corbusier, in collaboration with the most important French institutions, the research's main aim is to preserve, enhance and create an inventory of this unique heritage. The Chandigarh project is considered Le Corbusier's most mature work that summarises his poetics, technique and ideology, consistent with his will to research and contribute to the culture of architecture and design.

## **The *Capitol Complex*, core of the Chandigarh project**

The Chandigarh project, proposed to Le Corbusier by the then Prime Minister Nehru, represented a fundamental opportunity for him to test his architectural and urbanistic theories together with a group of architects that also included his cousin Pierre Jeanneret.

He imagined the city as a body where the *Capitol Complex*, the political and administrative nucleus of the new capital city of Punjab, represented the head. It was made up of three large monumental brutalist buildings, the *Haute Cour*, the *Secretariat* and the *Assemblée*. These were connected to the trunk, an orthogonal grid of over fifty partially self-sufficient "sectors" with green parks like lungs and an orderly system of large avenues, like veins and arteries, to guarantee a smooth circulation.

This extraordinary architectural, artistic and interior project has long been an important point of reference for the history of Modernity.

## **Cassina, spokesperson of the Modern, tributes Pierre Jeanneret**

Cassina's interest in the heritage of the furniture designed for the *Capitol Complex* naturally arose as a need to complete its knowledge of the work of the three great protagonists of Modernity: Le Corbusier, Pierre Jeanneret and Charlotte Perriand, whose furniture has been re-issued by the company since 1965 when the authors were still alive. Most certainly Pierre Jeanneret had a fundamental role in the design of the furniture for the city of Chandigarh, even if there is an absence of documentary evidence.

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With the utmost respect for authenticity, Cassina acknowledges that these products have always been made and reproduced with varying details by local artisans, and not only, up to the point that they have become sources of general inspiration.

With the support of the Fondation Le Corbusier, who gave access to their archives to analyse available material and drawings, and in agreement with the heirs of Pierre Jeanneret, Cassina began to study the *Capitol Complex* furniture which then led to the production of these models inspired by Pierre Jeanneret.

This is how this collection was born, four products to tribute Pierre Jeanneret, a key figure in the creation of Chandigarh.

His experience in India lasted until the end of his days in 1967. His close and continuous contact with the local territory led him to combine essential forms with simple materials to create a meeting point between modern European ideals and the traditional Indian spirit.

## ***Capitol Complex Office Chair, Hommage à Pierre Jeanneret by Cassina R&D – Cassina Collection***

This chair is one of the most recognisable models from Chandigarh's *Capitol Complex*: it was placed in various administrative offices of the *Secretariat* building. The independent pieces, including the side bars positioned in the shape of an inverted "V", converge and support the armrest, all made in solid wood.

This is a distinctive element of the entire collection that comes in many variations.

The woven seat and backrest within the wooden frame are characteristic elements of the area, just like the use of local woods such as teak.

In addition to the original teak essence, the re-issue by the Cassina Research and Development Centre is also available in two further versions in natural and black-stained oak, made in the company's historic carpentry workshop.

An optional cushion is available to protect the seat and make it more comfortable.



Materials: solid teak, natural or black-stained oak, seat and backrest in woven Viennese cane, seat cushion in polyurethane foam upholstered in fabric or leather from the Cassina Collections.

Measurements: 51x58x h.81/43cm

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## ***Capitol Complex Chair, Hommage à Pierre Jeanneret by Cassina R&D – Cassina Collection***

Similar to the better-known *Office Chair*, this chair without armrests also uses the “V” shaped structure, however, in this case, it is smaller as it does not extend to the armrest. Importance is given to the seat-back sequence in woven Viennese cane, connected by two wooden profiles with a massive geometric section, and coplanar legs that together create a powerful yet simple whole.

In addition to the original teak essence, the re-issue by the Cassina Research and Development Centre is also available in two further versions in natural and black-stained oak, made in the company's historic carpentry workshop.

An optional cushion is available to protect the seat and make it more comfortable.



Materials: solid teak, natural or black-stained oak, seat and backrest in woven Viennese cane, seat cushion in polyurethane foam upholstered in fabric or leather from the Cassina Collections.

Measurements: 45x57xh.81/43cm

## ***Capitol Complex Armchair, Hommage à Pierre Jeanneret by Cassina R&D – Cassina Collection***

The *Haute Cour*, together with the *Secretariat* and the *Assemblée* building, constitutes the founding nucleus of Chandigarh's *Capitol Complex*.

The rooms were filled with comfortable armchairs with substantial padding that had the same compositional structure of the furniture characterised by the "V" shaped structure.

The supports, together with the connecting crossbars and the external joints between the arms and the backrest, are the only visible wooden parts. The padding almost completely envelops the armrests, creating the outline of a rounded, geometric shape that, together with the distinct seat and back cushions, offers an immediate sense of comfort without abandoning its elegance and simplicity.

In addition to the original teak essence, the re-issue by the Cassina Research and Development Centre is also available in two further versions in natural and black-stained oak, made in the company's historic carpentry workshop.



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Materials: frame in solid teak wood, natural or black-stained oak, seat and backrest in expanded polyurethane with a metal insert and elastic straps, armrests in polyurethane foam with a visible solid wooden end, upholstery in fabric or leather from the Cassina Collections.

Measurements: 69x76xh.74/37cm

## ***Capitol Complex Table, Hommage à Pierre Jeanneret by Cassina R&D – Cassina Collection***

This large conference table was among the furniture used in the Legislative Assembly building of the *Capitol Complex*. It almost evokes the solemn activities of this place, with two important graphic elements with a characteristic "cornes entrecroisées" shape in solid wood for the base.

The re-issue of this table by the Cassina Research and Development Center, made in the company's renowned carpentry shop, is available in the historic version with a teak structure and top as well as two further versions in natural and black-stained oak with the option of a glass top in different sizes.



Materials: frame in solid teak wood, natural or black stained oak

Measurements:

270x110xh.72cm (15mm float glass top)

270x130xh.72cm (15mm float glass top)

270x130xh.74cm (top in teak, natural or black-stained oak)