



Atlantic Chair

American black walnut and leather

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The way that my work evolved into this curvy style harks back to when I used to be based in North Carolina, where I still have a workshop. It was a coastal region with a big boatbuilding industry, so I would often be commissioned to make furniture for superyachts; the curves complemented the shape of these. The *Atlantic Chair*, which was an exhibition piece for the Celebration of Craftsmanship and Design, is made from American black walnut and Scottish leather. It's the fourth of a series of slightly differing chairs, this being the first with leather. It's block laminated, with 15 thick boards across the back, which are all dowelled and glued. The seat is fastened into the back with loose tenons. A lot of bandsawing is involved, and there's plenty of wastage, but I put some of this to use for my smaller pieces. It's finished with tung oil, which I make myself, and wax. There weren't many challenges in the design process, but it's quite labour-intensive to make, with a lot of scraping, planing and sanding. Each laminate is tapered, so matching them up requires a special jig and lots of care.

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Erich Fichtner

