

MAGEN **H**
GALLERY
XX CENTURY DESIGN

HERVÉ BAILEY EDITIONS

A close-up photograph of a wooden table's edge. The wood has a prominent, vertical grain pattern and a warm, medium-brown tone. The table is shown from a low angle, emphasizing the thickness of the top and the clean, sharp edge. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

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INTRODUCTION

The Hervé Baley Éditions at Magen H Gallery

Hervé Baley's work is defined by a rigorous attention to line, proportion, and spatial intelligence. Rather than relying on noble materials or mass production, his pieces were conceived with precision and clarity, resulting in a body of work that is both restrained and strikingly original. Many pieces have not survived, and those that remain are scarce, making his oeuvre exceptionally rare.

The Hervé Baley Éditions, developed in close collaboration with the artist's estate, are conceived as faithful continuations of his vision. This initiative seeks to extend the life and visibility of Baley's work, increasing its reach while preserving the rigor, integrity, and architectural clarity that define it.

Far from a departure from his historical production, the Éditions maintain the spirit of Baley's originals, offering a way to connect his legacy to contemporary contexts and audiences, while honoring the precision and balance that characterize his work.

Hervé Baley (1933–2010)

Hervé Baley was a French architect and designer whose work developed at the crossroads of architecture, furniture, and sculpture. Educated at the free workshops of the École des Beaux-Arts between 1950 and 1954, he formed his architectural thinking alongside a generation of architects who questioned the dogmatism of postwar modernism. Among them was Dominique Zimbacca (1928–2011), with whom Baley shared a rejection of the dominant influence of Le Corbusier in favor of a more sensitive and experiential approach to space.

Baley found a key reference in the principles of organic architecture developed by Frank Lloyd Wright, which were gradually gaining recognition in France during the 1950s. This influence shaped a practice rooted in spatial continuity, proportion, and the translation of natural forms into built environments. Between 1959 and 2000, Baley realized approximately twenty houses and buildings, primarily in the Île-de-France region. Individual housing, in particular, served as an experimental field in which architectural ideas could be tested at a human scale.

In parallel with his architectural practice, Baley maintained a long-standing commitment to teaching. From 1968 to 1990, he was a professor at the École Spéciale d'Architecture, where he led the workshop "Sens and Space," advocating an approach to architecture grounded in experience, perception, and the intimate relationship between individuals and their environment. Throughout his career, Baley pursued a consistent goal: to create spaces and forms that establish a lasting harmony between structure, use, and human presence. This vision now finds continuity through carefully developed editions that remain faithful to his original intent.

THE EDITIONS

As the representative gallery of the Hervé Baley Estate, Magen H Gallery is committed to the study, preservation, and transmission of the architect and designer's work. This commitment began with the publication of the first comprehensive monograph dedicated to Hervé Baley, released in 2023, and continues today with the development of the Hervé Baley Éditions, realized in close collaboration with the Estate.

The creation of this edition collection responds to the inherent scarcity of Baley's original works. His pieces were conceived in close relationship to the architectural projects for which they were designed, resulting in a limited and fragmented body of work. With approximately 120 original pieces identified at the outset, and in light of the growing recognition of his work, the Éditions were conceived as a way to ensure the continued visibility and understanding of his design language beyond the confines of rarity.

The Hervé Baley Éditions are developed according to a rigorous framework. Each piece is based on original drawings, models, and archival references, with strict attention paid to proportion, scale, and line. No stylistic reinterpretation is introduced: the Éditions are conceived as architecturally grounded objects, faithful to the formal clarity and spatial intelligence that define Baley's work. Developed in close dialogue with the Estate, each edition follows a process of validation that ensures continuity with the original spirit of the designs.

Production is entrusted to workshops whose expertise reflects the French tradition of craftsmanship central to Baley's work. Upholstery fabrics are developed in collaboration with Élitis, a French house with an international presence, while upholstery is executed by Pierre Atelier, a French atelier based in New York. These collaborators act not as suppliers, but as interpretive partners, bringing material intelligence and technical rigor to the realization of each piece. Their work serves the precision of form, structure, and line, ensuring continuity with the architectural clarity that defines Baley's original designs.

COLLABORATIONS

Élitis

Textiles & Wall Coverings - Fabric Partner

Founded in France, Élitis is an internationally recognized editor of textiles and wall coverings, known for its research-driven approach to material, texture, and surface.

For the Hervé Baley Éditions and the exhibition at Magen H Gallery, Élitis provided fabrics used both in the upholstered pieces and in the architectural treatment of the space, creating a material continuity between object and environment. Their work supports the project's emphasis on structure, line, and spatial coherence, reinforcing the architectural nature of Baley's designs through measured and restrained material choices.

Pierre Atelier

Upholstery & Custom Fabrication

Pierre Atelier is a luxury upholstery studio founded in 2016 by Pierre-Alexandre Bourdel, known for its meticulous attention to materials, technique, and form. Based in New Rochelle, New York, the atelier specializes in bespoke upholstery and furniture fabrication for designers and architects seeking precision and refined execution.

Pierre-Alexandre's training in traditional upholstery and craft, rooted in historic European techniques, informs the studio's approach to both restoration and custom work. His practice emphasizes the integrity of line and surface, supporting the production of upholstered elements that are both structurally assured and tactilely rich: qualities aligned with the rigor of the Hervé Baley Éditions.

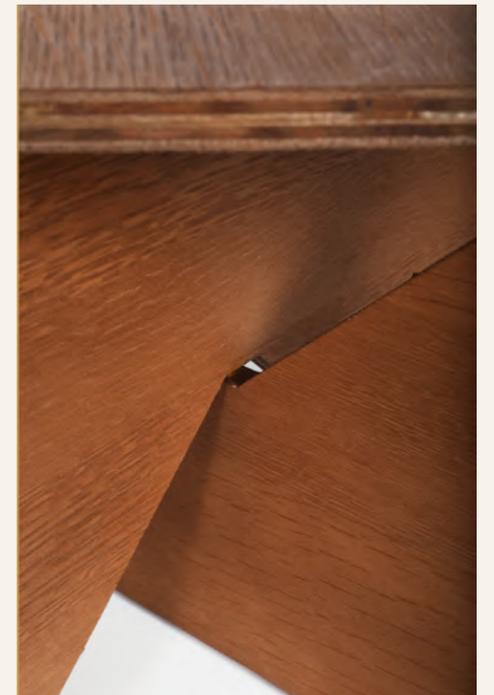
Alban Roger

Exhibition Scenography & Spatial Direction

Alban Roger is a French-born, New York-based creative director and scenographer whose work spans immersive exhibitions, spatial design, and creative direction. Beginning his career in the fashion and editorial world, Roger has since brought his refined visual sensibility to the realm of collectible design and exhibition environments, working internationally with galleries and institutions across New York, Paris, and Mexico City.

For the Hervé Baley Éditions at Magen H Gallery, Roger developed the exhibition's spatial layout and scenography, shaping the dialogue between object and space through a calibrated understanding of proportion, materiality, and audience movement. His experience in immersive settings and his precise aesthetic approach support the project's emphasis on architectural clarity and formal coherence.

THE PIECES



Stool / Side Table

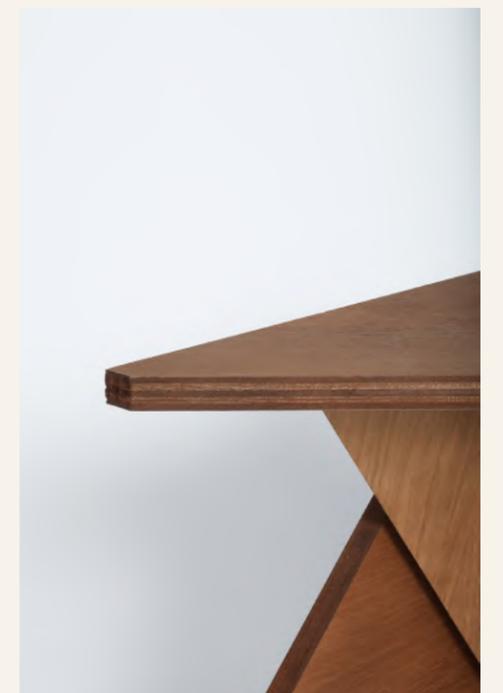
Original realisation: c.1963-1966

Plywood

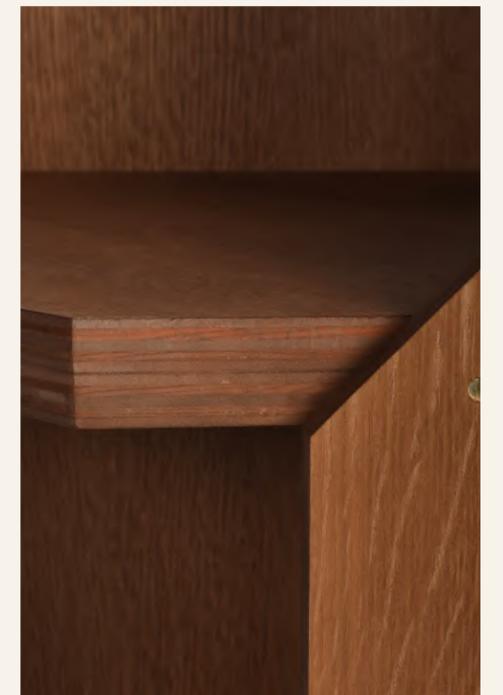
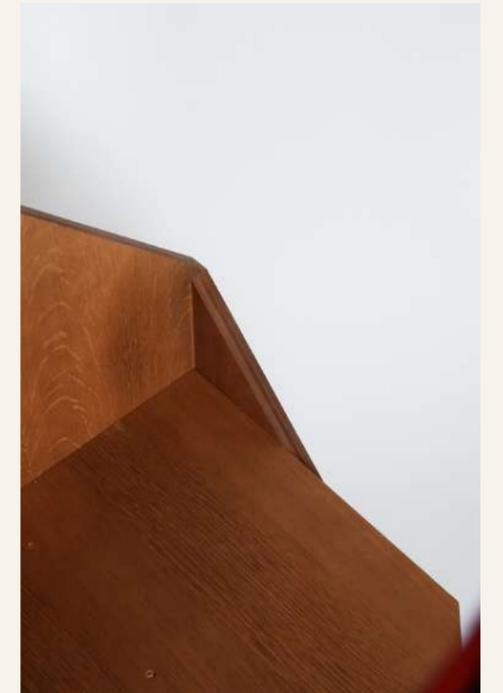
15.5H x 17.5W x 17.5D inches

39H x 44W x 44D cm

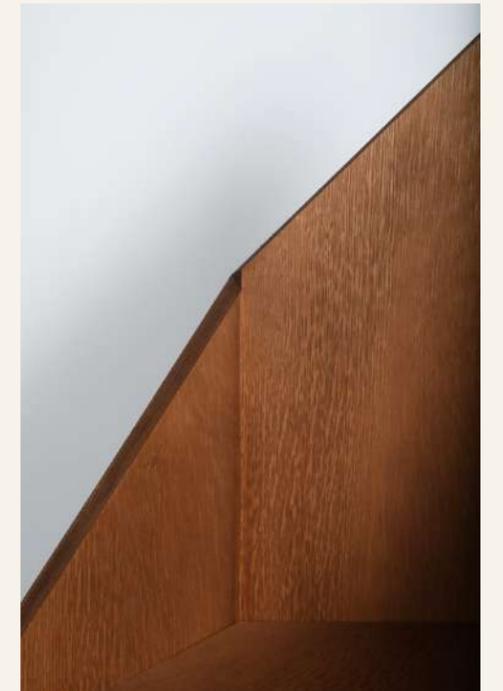
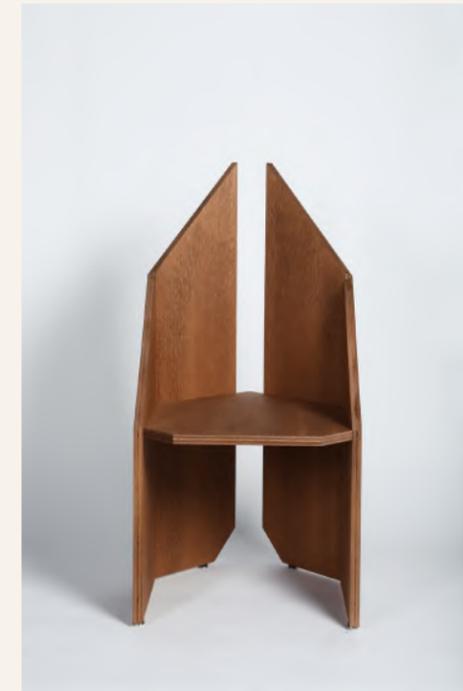
Side Table
Original realisation: c.1966-1968
Plywood
17H x 23.75W x 13.75D inches
43H x 60.5W x 35D cm



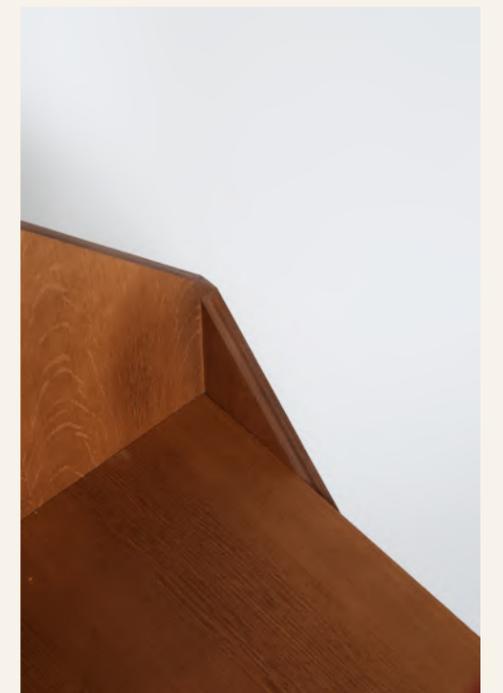
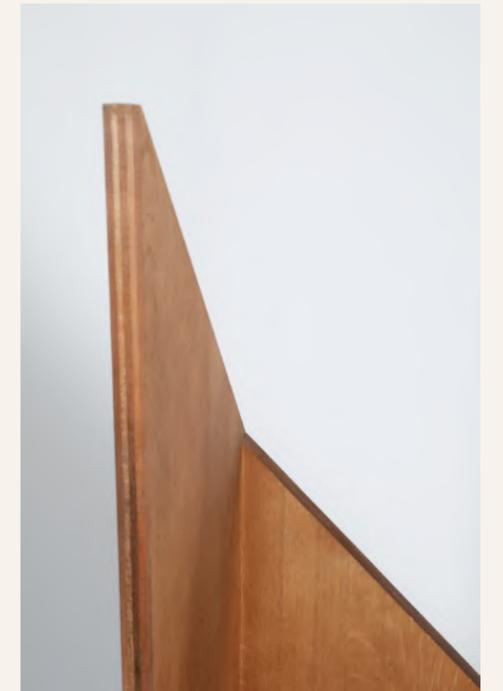
Chair
Original realisation: c.1967
Plywood
30H x 27.5W x 20.75D inches
76H x 70W x 52.5D cm



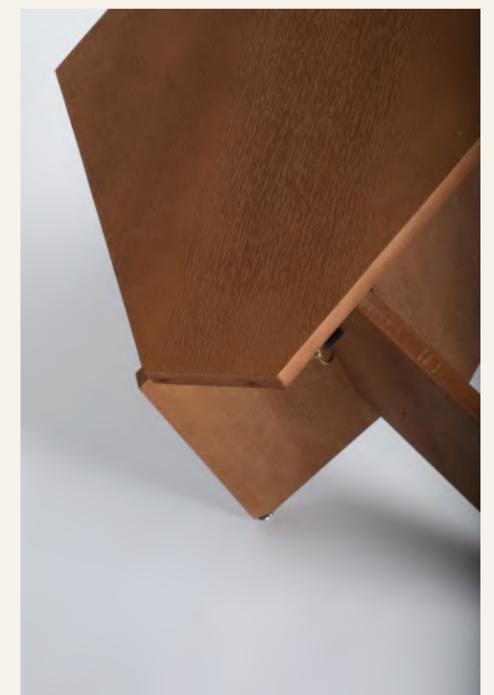
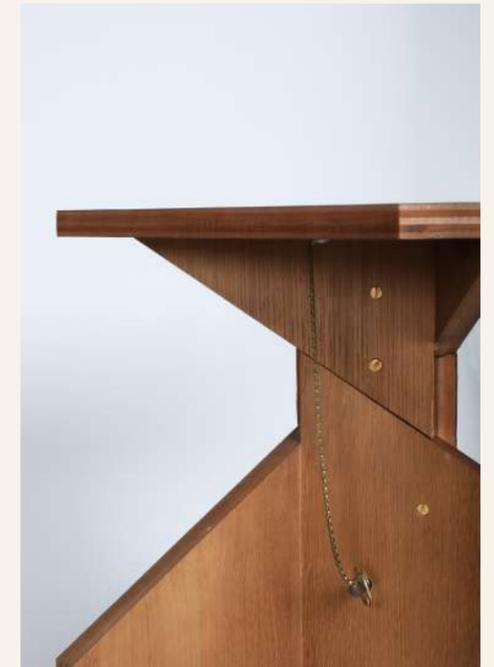
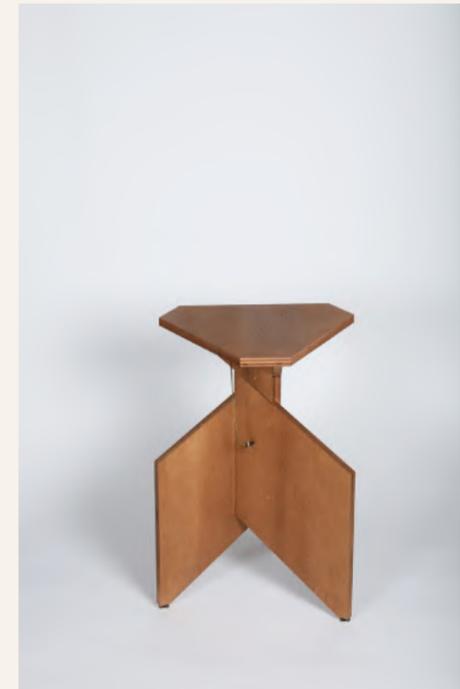
Chair
Original realisation: c.1967
Plywood
36.25H x 17W x 21D inches
92H x 43.5W x 53.5D cm



Large Chair
Original realisation: c.1965-1966
Plywood
51.5H x 20.5W x 19.75D inches
131H x 52W x 50D cm



High stool
Original realisation: c.1963
Plywood
24.25H x 14.5Dia inches
61.5H x 36.5Dia cm



THE EXHIBITION

The exhibition of the Hervé Baley Éditions at Magen H Gallery presents a focused selection of fourteen pieces, conceived as a spatial experience rather than a linear display. The scenography, developed by Alban Roger and produced by And Others Studio, emphasizes proportion, rhythm, and spatial relationships, allowing the works to be read through their architectural logic.

The layout is articulated through three large vignettes that punctuate the exhibition. Two of these are conceived as immersive spatial moments, each organized around a singular piece from the Hervé Baley Éditions Collection. Surrounding elements appear in dialogue with the central work, extending its presence in space and hinting at the systems of thought and construction that underpin Baley's practice, without ever resolving into a literal or didactic reading.

Beyond these central moments, additional works are distributed throughout the space, introducing variations in scale and context. A more intimate, lived-in setting unfolds toward the back of the gallery, suggesting a working environment rather than a finished tableau—where furniture, drawings, and objects coexist in a quieter, informal arrangement.

Together, the exhibition proposes a measured balance between clarity and atmosphere, offering a contemporary reading of Hervé Baley's work that foregrounds its architectural nature while leaving room for discovery and interpretation.

PRATICAL INFORMATIONS

Exhibition Dates

March 25 – April 24, 2026

Opening Reception

Wednesday, March 25 | 6:00–8:00 PM

Location

Magen H Gallery
54 East 11th Street
New York, NY 10003

Gallery Hours

Monday–Friday | 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM

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