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Jean Prouv : Jean Prouv: Objects and Furniture Design By Architects before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Jean Prouv: Objects and Furniture Design By Architects:

As a young man, Jean Prouv (1901-1984) longed to become an engineer, but as his family could not afford the requisite training, at 15 he was apprenticed to a master blacksmith in Paris. Prouv opened his own smithy in Nancy in 1923, and shortly thereafter produced his first furniture made from thin sheet steel. Right away, Prouv's sparse, geometric aesthetic appealed to avant garde architects such as Robert Mallet-Stevens and Le Corbusier, who commissioned ironwork from him, and in 1929, invited Prouv to join the new Union des Artistes Modernes, a group of artists and designers championing the Modernist style. In the early 1940s, due to the scarcity of steel during World War II, Prouv began working mostly with wood. Besides creating furniture, he also explored designs for pre-fabricated

housing, constructing dwellings for the homeless. But by the 1960s, Prouv's austere style seemed passé, and he fell foul of fashion's whims; as a self-taught designer he was also routinely excluded by the architectural establishment. His reputation may have further suffered from his own appetite for collaboration, which could make his exact role in architectural projects difficult to identify. Happily, this state of affairs changed in the 1990s when Prouv emerged as an unlikely auction star, as his sensibility chimed again with the activities of contemporary neo-Modernists like Jasper Morrison and Konstantin Grcic. This new monograph in Polgrafa's new series on the furniture and objects designed by the twentieth century's most important architects features drawings and photographs of each featured design.