

House Beautiful

DESIGN INSPIRATION

12 Clever Ways to Give Old Chairs New Life, According to Designers

Transform secondhand furniture into custom gems with these ideas.

BY ALYSSA LONGOBUCCO | PUBLISHED: MAR 11, 2025



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Let the Chairs Lead the Way

Sometimes, you can just tell what kind of makeover a chair is asking for, and its form will lead the way in dictating how exactly you recover it. For this collection of vintage dining chairs, that meant something bold and graphic. Designer Elizabeth Mollen of **Stone Textile Studio** turned to a nubby blue stripe to accent the unique angles seen on the polished black frames. "We fell in love with this set of Memphis-style dining chairs from 1st Dibs, but they needed a lot of help," she explains. "We refinished the frames in black and reupholstered the chairs with a heavy jewel toned stripe fabric as a fun way to give them new life."