



farabola

Pale plywood sheathes darker frames of desk and chair. Though light and keen of line, the desk gives an impression of strength because of the athletic sweep of its long legs, solid braces, relative smallness of the suspended drawer, and muscular modeling of raised edges curving above surface at each side of the paler-toned top. There is plenty of leg room.

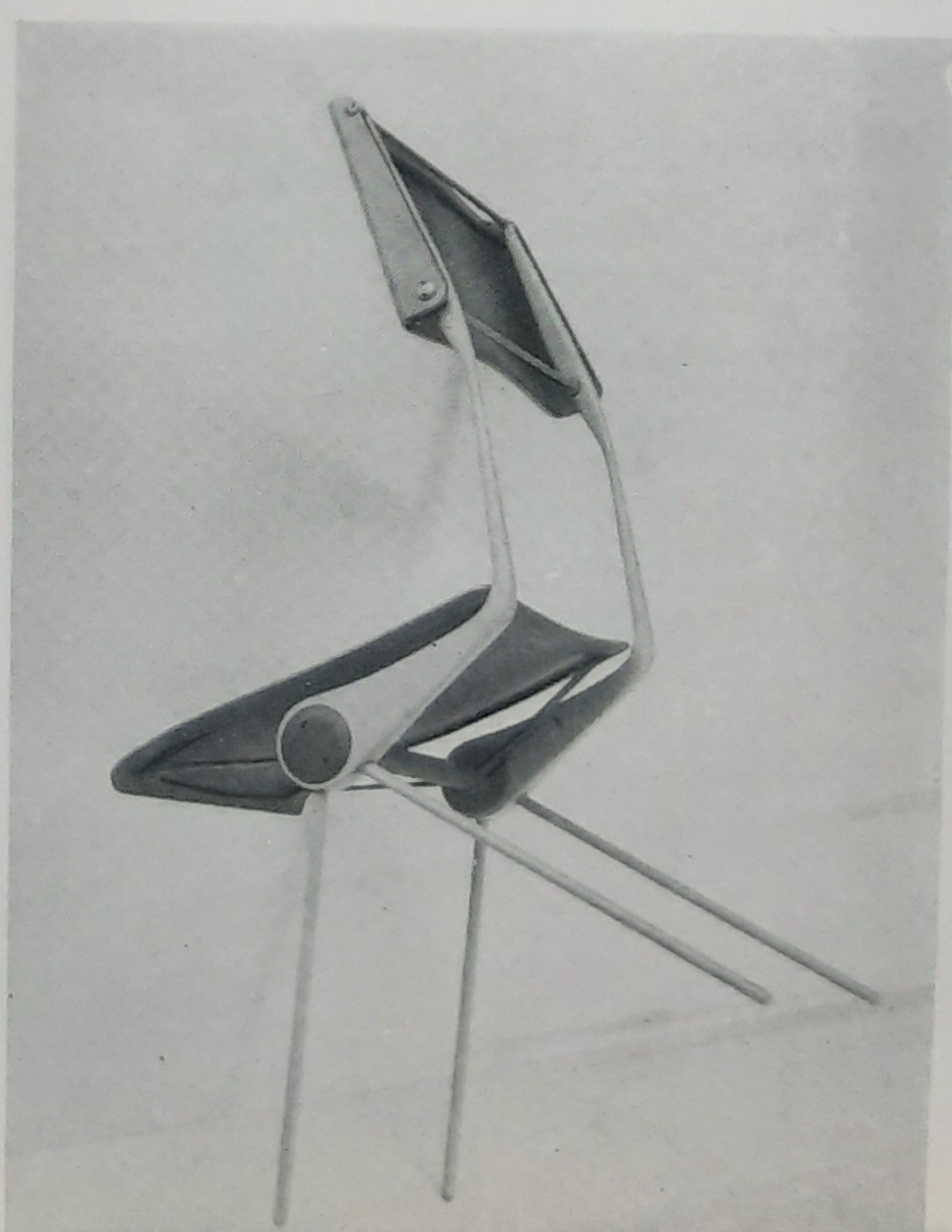
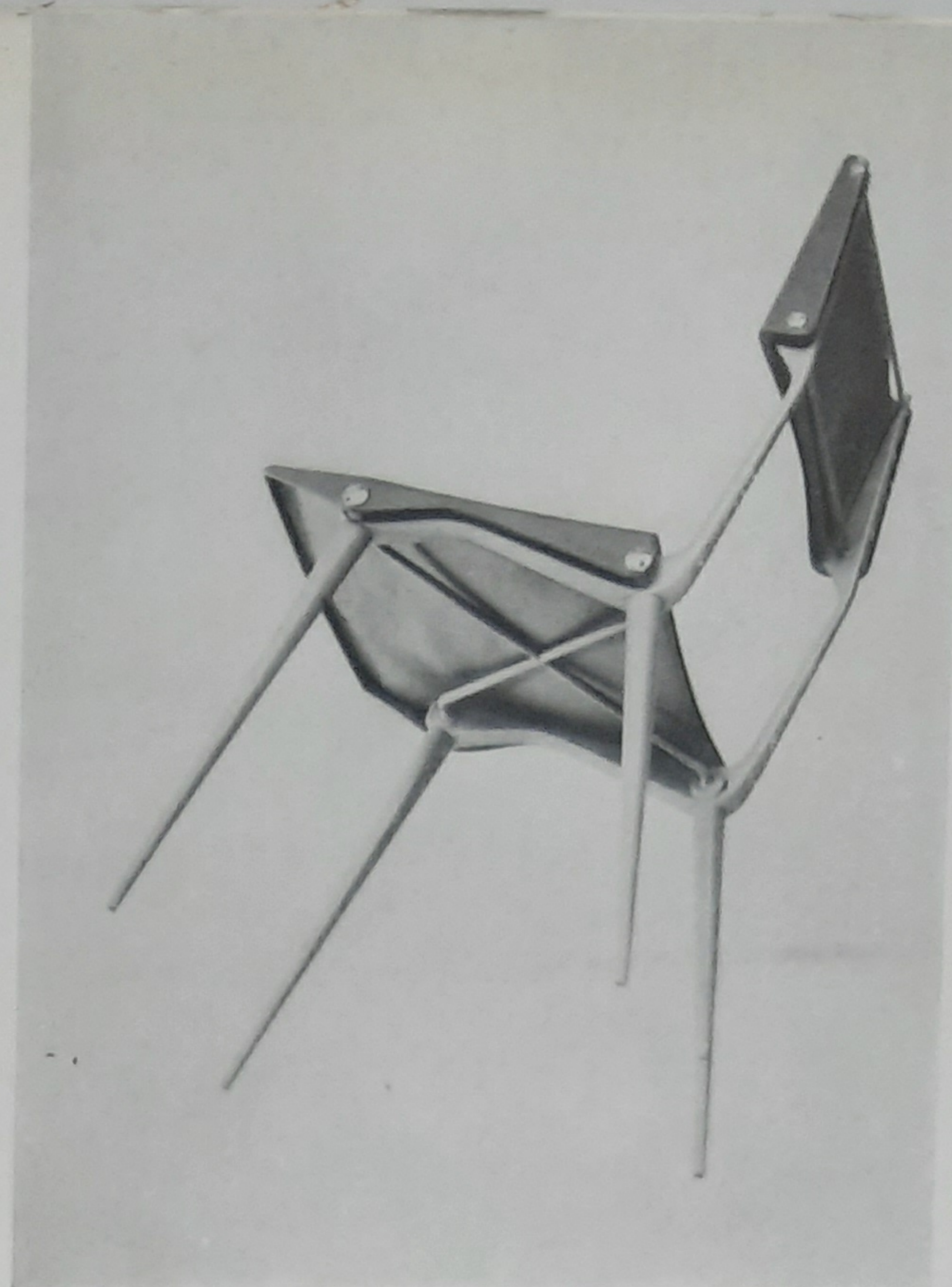
De Carli's engineered sculpture



The chair at left, designed in 1949, is a prototype for the one at top (with desk), designed two years later. Modifications allow for the introduction of machine operations. Both versions are suavely modeled, neatly and strongly jointed, well proportioned, well balanced, and kind to the occupant. M. Singer & Sons in the U. S. have variations with front legs in both positions. The table above, with tapered brass-tipped legs in a radial spray, is demountable.

Not content with one original scheme for a demountable chair, De Carli has worked out many. All three shown at right have metal frames and molded plywood seats and backs. In the first and third versions, De Carli's fondness for sculptural modeling appears in the tapering of some of the metal members, which are squeezed down to minimum diameter wherever strains diminish, but each member of the frame of the ingenious, butterfly-slip middle version retains its mechanistic uniformity, yet manages to look pertly pretty.

fortunati



The functions of furniture are to support weights and enclose volumes—problems of *engineering*. (These of course are complicated by the variety of available materials, each reacting to tension and compression in its own way.) Then, furniture is looked at, creating three-dimensional visual problems—of *sculpture*. Well, who is better qualified to solve both categories simultaneously but an architect? Carlo De Carli is one and a Milanese to boot. The sculptor's style is mature. His wood furniture is soigné and luxurious, his metal pieces smartly crisp. In either case he makes a point of structural method, joints, and reinforcements, emphasizing the articulation of individual parts. The results reassure with their light, rigid strength, and, obviously being products of a clear mind, are most pleasant—O. G.