

# OBJECT LESSON

*Christopher Jenner Rush chair* It might echo the whiplash curves of art nouveau, but this chair has an ancient Neolithic craft at its core – the sculptural oak frame supporting a seat of woven rush. Collaborating with artisans who ‘shape our sense of Englishness’, London-based designer Christopher Jenner approached Felicity Irons, the last rush-maker in Europe, and suggested they work together. Each season Irons punts along the Bedfordshire waterways harvesting 3,000 bolts of lanky *Scirpus lacustris*, drying them against hedgerows, before intricately looping them into rustic golden

mats. Simulating Irons’ weaving technique, Jenner sketched a sinuous form, an infinite organic loop realised in oak. But the simplicity of the Rush chair’s shape belies a complex construction – 28 individual CNC-crafted timber pieces are split horizontally to secure the web-like seat between the oak, with dowel joints threaded through the rush. A woven plait provides a seamless finish. £35,000 to order; [christopher-jenner.com](http://christopher-jenner.com) Bethan Ryder

Photograph Metz & Racine

