ALUMINIUM CHAIR The prototype of this chair has holes in the seat because it was originally designed for outdoor use. Since aluminium is so expensive, we first made a prototype out of steel to save money. It was actually an absurd thing to do, since aluminium not only looks different but is also much weaker than steel. Nowadays, we make practically all prototypes using the right materials the first time. At the time, I wandered around a metal company and was immensely fascinated by the possibilities of computer-controlled machines, which were used to punch sheet metal and fold it. Both the step stool and the aluminium collection were devised shortly afterwards. A few years later (in 1995), as part of a project initiated by the Dutch government, we sold a large number of aluminium chairs to the Museum of Modern Art in New York. They insisted on having a Dutch designer for the furnishings and, what's more, one who still produced his or her own work. In the land of the blind, the one-eyed man is king. We were the only ones who fulfilled this requirement, so they pretty much had to give us the assignment. Those chairs stood in the Dutch Café for more than 10 years and formed the start of a complete aluminium collection. The significance of this assignment was huge; if you can claim that your work has been displayed in the MoMA, people tend to take you much more seriously.

art nr	**1000**
year	**1993**
size	**42 x 36 x 86 cm**
material	**aluminium anodized**

PIET HEIN EEK