



Johnson Furniture

Expanding Circular Dining Tables



Expanding Circular Dining Tables by George Johnson

This brochure showcases a special piece of furniture designed and made by George Johnson - the expanding circular dining table.

From physics to furniture George has had an unusual career path. After completing a physics degree, he returned to his childhood passion for making furniture.



After 12 years in a railway arch in Deptford, South East London, he now has a workshop in Selby, North Yorkshire. He has been making furniture on an individual commission basis since 2005.

Dining tables are George's passion. The surface of the table offers the perfect canvas to display the most beautiful timbers to their full potential.

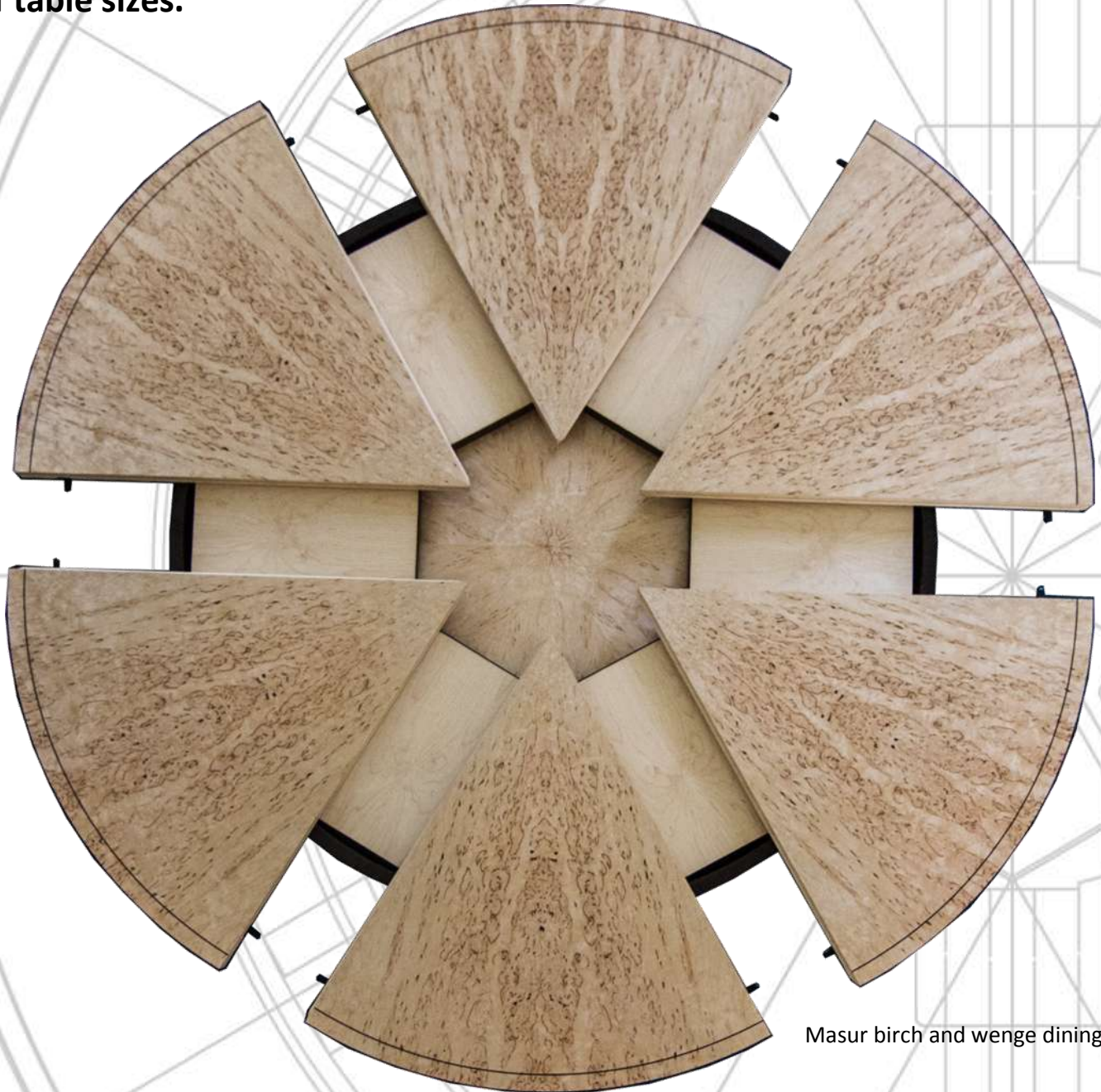


Brown Oak Dining Table Partially Open

The History of the Table

The first expanding circular dining tables were made by Robert Jupe in the 1830's. They were beautiful pieces of engineering and now command high prices at auction. The only drawback with the tables was the need for a separate storage cabinet for the expansion leaves. These then had to be carried to the table and slotted into place.

George has created a table where the expansion leaves are stored within the body of the table and rise up automatically as it rotates. The unique unfolding star shape allows for a compact mechanism with a large range of table sizes.

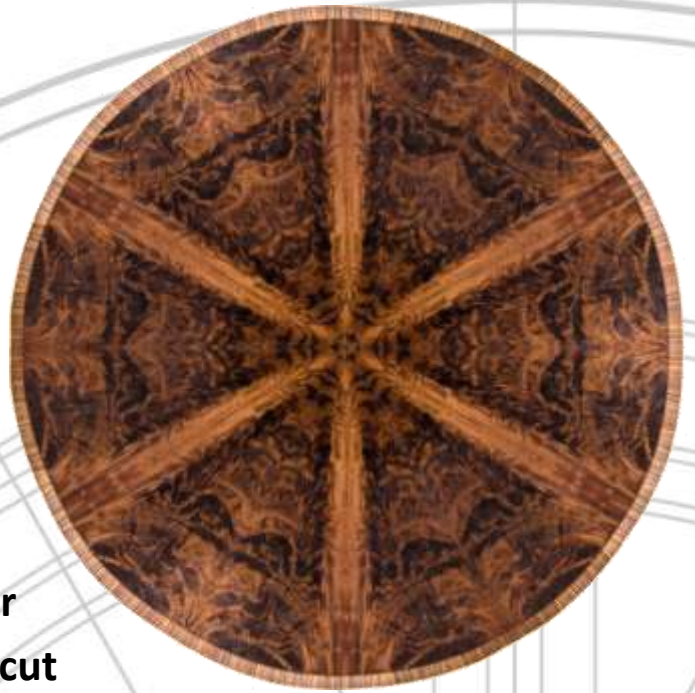


Masur birch and wenge dining table

Choice of Timber

There are a huge range of timbers to choose from. They can have dramatic large scale patterns with a wide variety of colours, or much more intricate formations. George is happy to make suggestions and always enjoys using something new.

The top of the table is made from either 12 or 24 pieces of veneer. These are cut into a wedge shape and arranged in a circle to form what is known as a starburst veneer formation. Turning over alternate leaves creates beautiful symmetrical effects. One of the unique aspects of George's tables is how the grain is continuous in both the normal and extended states of the table.



Walnut table original size



Walnut table extended

The example shown on this page is a walnut curl. This veneer is cut from where the tree trunk divides into two, creating swirling grain patterns.

If you are unsure about what to choose, then George can provide samples of timber and examples of finishes.

From Tree to Table....

This page shows an example of a table top made from pippy oak.

Pippy oak occurs when an oak tree sprouts clusters of small branches from the trunk. When the tree is cut open, these show as areas of burr.

For this table 24 leaves of veneer were used. The red triangle shows the shape that was cut from the original leaves of veneer, and how they translated into the finished table top.

As you can see, just one section of veneer can produce a huge number of possible tables; as such each table will be special and unique.



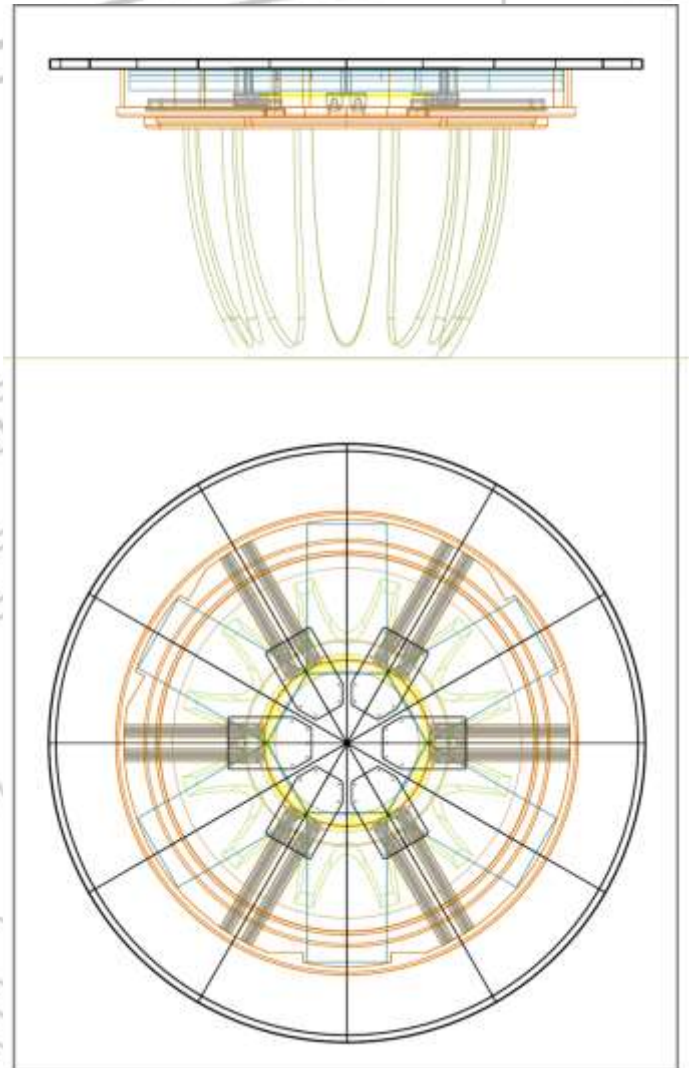
Pippy oak dining table extended

The Design of the Table

Each table is fully drawn using CAD down to the finest detail. This means the diameter can be varied to suit the size of the room, or to accommodate a specific number of chairs.

The expansion mechanism has been custom designed by George, and is formed from laser cut steel and 3D printed parts.

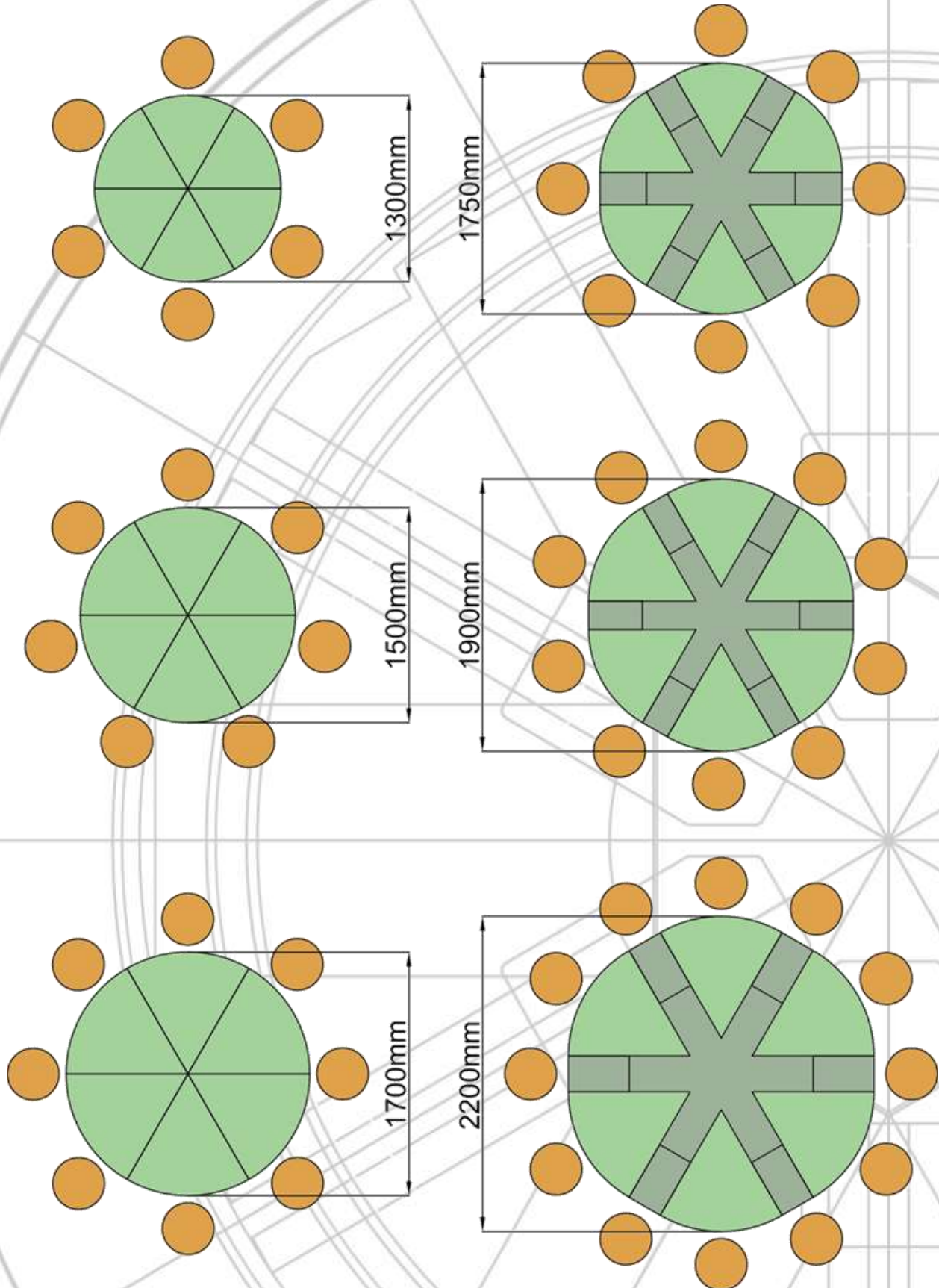
If a new design is being produced, then computer images such as the example below are presented to the client. These can include accurate representations of how the grain will look on the finished table.



Computer design of a brown oak dining table

Size Guide

Each table is made to order, so the size can be changed to suit your needs. However George has three standard sizes for the table.



Chairs to Match?

George can also design and make a set of dining chairs to match your table.

The ergonomics of a chair are important, and George takes great care to ensure they are as much a pleasure to sit on as to look at.

The chairs can have a profiled wooden seat, or be upholstered in either fabric or leather.



An upholstered walnut dining chair



A set of oak dining chairs to match the pippy oak table

Commissioning a Table

If you are interested in commissioning a table then George would be delighted to talk to you.

If you would like to see one of the tables, George attends a couple of furniture exhibitions each year, details of which are shown on his website. Alternatively a workshop visit can be arranged.

For the latest prices, and if you have any questions, then please do not hesitate to contact George.

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Olive Ash and Olive Ash Burr Dining Table