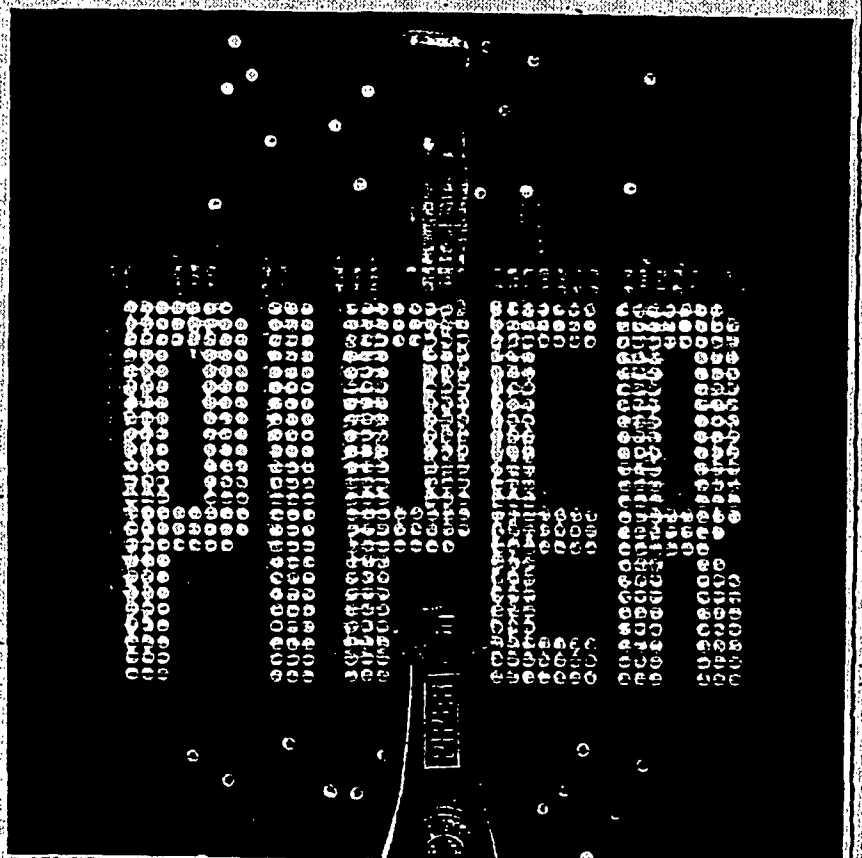


Design Research is gathering its autumn stock of recognized classics and new designs to add to the collection of D/R furniture, Marimekko● textiles and dresses; fur and leather, toys, kitchen things and many other accessories.

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not listed in most medical books; it was not even coded separately in World Health Organization's International Classification of Diseases. 1956 and 1957, however, sixteen of this rare tumor—tantamount to epidemic—were diagnosed at the Pneumoconiosis Research Unit in Johannesburg, South Africa, by a pathologist named J. Christopher Wagner. These circumstances led Dr. Wagner and associates to suggest that asbestos might play some part in the mysterious disease: asbestos bodies had been found on autopsy in the lungs of the very first case, and ten of the cases had come from a hospital to which patients suspected of suffering from tuberculosis were referred from a large crocidolite asbestos mining area.

At the beginning, this hypothesis seemed rather tenuous, for none of the sixteen patients who suffered from mesothelioma had ever worked in the asbestos mines or mills. Within a short period, however, cases of mesothelioma began to crop up elsewhere in South Africa, and when Wagner and his associates discovered that the father of one of their new mesothelioma patients had been the manager of an asbestos mine and that the patient had played around the mine and on the adjacent dumps as a child, they undertook to reinvestigate the sixteen original cases and to obtain detailed life histories in all future cases. By the end of 1961, they had diagnosed a total of eighty-seven mesotheliomas of the pleura and two mesotheliomas of the peritoneum. Only twelve of the cases proved to have had industrial exposure to asbestos, but all the rest came from the sparsely windswept region of the Cape asbestos fields, where they could easily have obtained exposure simply by living in the vicinity of asbestos mills and dumps. One particularly striking case was that of a woman who was born in a town on the asbestos fields, left the region at the age of five, and died of a pleural mesothelioma at the age of fifty-seven. Detailed questioning about her childhood revealed that she had attended a kindergarten near an asbestos dump and that she and her playmates (two of whom also died of mesothelioma) used to enjoy sliding down the dump on the way home from school. Another example was provided by the youngest patient of the series—a man who died at the age of twenty-one. He had been exposed to asbestos from the age of two weeks until he was weaned—a period during which his mother took him along with her when she went to work at a cobbing site, which is a place where