



Pair of 'Aarhus City Hall' ceiling lamps designed by Arne Jacobsen for Louis Poulsen
Denmark, ca 1941

Brass and glass.

Aarhus City Hall, Denmark.

This example was manufactured in the 1940s.

A simple yet graceful combination of materials and shapes characterises the 'Aarhus City Hall' ceiling lamps. Hanging from the ceiling on three thin metal wires, each lamp's spherical brass segment appears suspended in the air and is complemented by a large glass cap that both protects and emphasises the light source - a union of aesthetics and function.

Completed in 1942 as a total design, Arne Jacobsen's famous city hall in Aarhus has a simple exterior and a richly detailed interior. Using soft shapes achieved through elegantly understated materials, such as brass, glass, and wood, Jacobsen and his team designed all the furniture, lamps, fittings and other details, including the iconic typeface. The building is both an example of early functionalism in Denmark and of Arne Jacobsen's impressive total designs.

Only the most distinguished manufacturers were contracted for the interiors of the Aarhus City Hall; these ceiling lamps were produced by the Danish lighting manufacturer Louis Poulsen, which was founded in 1874 and would go on to become internationally renowned for its collaborations with designers such as Poul Henningsen, Verner Panton, and Arne Jacobsen.