

History Of Furniture

1500- 1988

Classification of Period Furniture

- There are many ways to classify Furniture
- Chronologically (By dates)
- By Timbers used
- By Monarchs
- By Designers

Chronologically

- The age of the carpenter 1500 – 1600
- During the Gothic Period, pre 1500 the church was responsible for most teaching of craftsmanship hence the gothic style of furniture was heavily influenced by church buildings.
- Furniture was made by the carpenter, blacksmith and the turner.
- Main piece was a chest that was used for storage and also doubled as a seat or table. Trestle type tables & stools.

Chronologically

- The age of the Cabinetmaker 1660 – 1750
- As Oak was replaced by woods such as Walnut and Mahogany more detailed and finer joint-work was produced and new pieces of furniture evolved.
- Sideboards, fold top games tables, taller chests, sideboards with doors became cupboards and the draw leaf table which is still common today.

- The age of the Designer 1750 – 1806
- Furniture became known by the designers that designed them.

By Type Of Wood

- Oak 1500-1600
 - Walnut 1660-1723
 - Mahogany 1715
 - Satinwood 1765
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- Oak 1500-1600
 - Britain used it's native trees such as oak and beech for furniture production
 - With the establishment of overseas trade, and the discovery of new land other timber species became available:

By Type Of Wood

- Walnut 1660-1723
- Walnut veneers replaced oak & walnut timber was used for furniture.
- Oriental lacquer finishes over cheaper timbers became more common.
- Elaborate veneering and marquetry replaced carving – using holly, ebony, satinwood and ivory.

By Type Of Wood

- Mahogany 1715
- Mahogany was first imported in the 1720's firstly from Cuba, and later from Honduras .
- Mahogany replaced walnut as the main timber for furniture making.
- Mahogany had much better characteristics, better for joint-work carved really well which lead to a revival in carving
- It was also less likely to shrink and twist.

By Type Of Wood

- Satinwood 1765
- Satinwood is a tropical hardwood native to India and Sri Lanka
- It is a golden colour wood often used in veneer form.
- Hepplewhite used a lot of Mahogany and Satinwood
- Sheraton also used both but preferred to use mainly Satinwood for a lighter finish.

By Type Of Wood

- Other Exotic Timbers 1800 – 1900
- Rosewood ebony, exotic veneers
- Oak revival 1920 – 1940
- Chrome, Tubular steel, bentwood moulded plywood 1925 –
- Moulded Plastic, fibreglass, Formica, Aluminium 1940 –
- Plastic laminates flat & post formed, Medium density fibreboard 1980 -

Monarchs

- Henry VII 1457 -1509 The first Tudor monarch
- Henry VIII 1485- 1547 Succeeded his father.
- Tudor / Gothic / Renaissance, Louis XIII
- Queen Elizabeth 1568-1603
- Elizabethan / Gothic / Renaissance, Louis XIII
- James I and Charles I.
- Jacobean/ Carolean / Baroque / Louis XIII
- Commonwealth
- Cromwellian / Baroque / Louis XIV
- Charles II & James II
- Restoration / Baroque / Louis XIV
- Charles II returned from exile.

Monarchs

- William & Mary 1689-1684
- William & Mary / Baroque / Louis XIV
- This period was named after the marriage of the English Mary Stuart, the daughter of James II to the Dutch William of Orange.
- Queen Anne 1702 – 1714
- Queen Anne / Rococo / Louis XIV
- The Georgian Period
- George I 1714-1727
- Early Georgian / Rococo / Regence
- George II 1727 - 1760
- Mid Georgian / Rococo / Louis XV
- George III 1760-1811
- Late Georgian / Neoclassical / Louis XVI, Directoire & Empire

Monarchs

- George III 1811 - 1820
- Regency / Regency / Restoration
- George IV 1820-1830
- Regency / Regency / Restoration / Biedermeire
- William IV 1830 – 1837
- William IV / Aesthetic / Louis Phillipe
- Victoria 1837-1901
- Victorian / Arts & Crafts / 2nd Empire
- Edward VII 1901 – 1910
- Edwardian / Art Nouveau / French State

By Designers

- The age of the Designer 1750 – 1806
- Furniture became known by the designers that designed them.
- A group of designers became known during the late Georgian Period as the “The Golden Age of Furniture”.
- The designers were:
- Chippendale 1745 - 1780
- Adams 1760 - 1792
- Hepplewhite 1760 - 1790
- Sheraton 1790 -1806

By Designers & Periods

- Thomas Hope 1769- 1831
- George Smith 1800 – 1830
- Regency Furniture 1811-1830
- Victorian Furniture 1837-1901
- Edwardian Furniture 1901 – 1910

19th Century Designers

- Duncan Phyfe 1768 – 1854 Scottish / American
- William Morris 1834 – 1896 English
- Philip Webb 1831 – 1915 English
- Michael Thonet 1796 - 1871 German /Austrian
- Charles Rennie Mackintosh 1868 – 1928 Scottish
- René Herbst 1891 – 1983 France
- Biedermeier 1815–1848 Germany

20th Century Designers

- Gerrit Rietveld 1888-1964 Dutch
- Eileen Gray 1878-1976 Ireland/France
- Eero Aarnio 1932 Finland
- Bauhaus 1919-1933 German
- Art Deco 1925 – 1940's France
- Arne Jacobsen 1902-1971 Denmark
- Eero Saarinen 1910 - 1961 Finnish
- Le Corbusier 1887- 1965 Swiss
- Harry Bertoia 1915 – 1978 Italy/ USA

20th Century Designers

- Marcel Breuer 1902 – 1981 Hungarian
- Charles Eames 1907 – 1978 USA
- Ray (Bernice) Eames 1912 – 1988 USA
- Mies Van De Rohe 1886 – 1969 Germany
- George Nelson 1908 – 1986 USA
- Joaquim Tenreiro 1906 – 1992 Brazil
- Giovanni Maffezzoli 1776-1818 Italy
- Arne Jacobsen 1902 – 1971 Denmark
- Sam Maloof 1916 – 2009 USA
- Alvar Aalto 1989 – 1976 Finland

Roman Numerals

1	I	11	XI	50	L
2	II	12	XII	100	C
3	III	13	XIII	500	D
4	IV	14	XIV	1000	M
5	V	15	XV		
6	VI	16	XVI		
7	VII	17	XVII		
8	VIII	18	XVIII		
9	IX	19	XIX		
10	X	20	XX		