



**20<sup>th</sup> Century**

**Furniture Designers  
and Architects**

**Gustav Stickley  
1900-1916**

# Gustave Stickley 1858-1942

- Gustav Stickley was born on March 9<sup>th</sup> 1858 in the small town of Osceola, Wisconsin.
- Father was a stone mason and Gustav trained in this skill but later went to work making chairs in his uncles factory.



- In 1883 Stickley and his two brothers , Charles and Albert formed the “Stickley Brother & Company” Here they mainly made chairs in the style of Windsor and Shaker.
- In 1888 Stickley left this business and started a new partnership with an accomplished furniture sales man called Elgin Simmonds, “Stickley & Simmonds Co”.

# The Gustav Stickley Company

- With the introduction of machines a lot of furniture similar in style to Stickley's and Simmonds started to be mass produced so he began to test different style of furniture which was simpler, but sturdy with cleaner lines.
- He became aware of the Arts and Craft movement especially in England.
- Stickley used native American oak as it was sturdy and plain.
- A popular feature of his furniture designs was exposed joints, with tenons protruding through the mortises and his upholstery was mostly made from natural materials such as leather and canvas.

# Gustav Stickley Furniture



Gustav Stickley Rocker



Drop Arm Spindle Morris Chair #369

# Mission Style Furniture

- Simmonds did not agree with the new direction that Gustav wanted to take his furniture so Gustave bought him out and they parted ways.
- Gustav renamed his company “The Gustave Stickley Co.”
- The new furniture became known as mission style because of its simplicity of materials and design. While Stickley used machines to speed up the process he did not allow the machines to dictate the style of his furniture.
- Because of this success Gustav renamed his company to “The United Crafts”

# The Craftsman

- Gustav founded 'The Craftsman' in 1901 and became well known to the world. The Craftsman was a magazine which was published monthly and it illustrated the philosophy of the English Arts and Crafts movement and in turn began to be the leading light of the American movement.
- In 1904 he started selling furniture plans.
- Much like his English counterpart William Morris who started a rebellion against the machines, founding a company to demonstrate the superiority of quality handmade furniture. This led to the Arts & Crafts Movement.
- Gustav admired and purchased many of William Morris plans, he started to manufacture the Morris Chair which was the first "Recliner Chair".

# Stickley Recliners



Gustav Stickley Recliner



Adjustable Back

# Stickley/ Morris Chair



Morris Recliner



Adjustable Back

# Stickley/ Morris Chair



Bow Arm Recliner



Slant Arm Recliner

# References

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