

Principles of Furniture and Joinery Design
Semester 2

External Homework:
The Regency Designers

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Henry Holland was one of the leading designers of the Regency period, although he was less well known than his contemporaries, due to his reluctance to court public attention as is evident by his comments to a friend in 1789: 'Pray no more public compliments to me. I began the world a very independent man and wish to hold it at arms length...I find myself already more the object of public notice than suits my disposition or plan of life' ("henry holland – The Country Seat", 2022). Carlton House in London and the Royal Pavilion at Brighton are two outstanding examples of the use of Regency Furniture, interiors and design which were carried out by Holland under Royal patronage and commission. Figure 1 shows a fine example of a chair designed by Holland and typical of the Regency period with its gilded frame and bow and arrowed back with 'square seat



Figure 1 Regency Chair. Image obtained from V & A museum



Figure 2 Regency Cabinet. Image obtained from Etons of Bath

and the straight legs show {sic} the influence of French furniture.' Figure 2 shows a magnificent example of a Henry Holland cabinet, again with prominent gilded parts and 'a strong chinoiserie style (**Chinoiserie**, a French term, signifying "Chinese-esque", refers to a recurring theme in European artistic styles since the



Figure 3 Door detail sketch.

Regency furniture design which was being used by the middle classes of the time with their newfound wealth.

Thomas Hope was a Dutch born Regency designer who was a major contributor in terms of interior design, architecture and furniture design to the Regency period. As well as his work designing furniture and interiors of stately homes, he also published numerous books on furniture design and architecture which are considered valuable documents and reference material relating to this period.



Figure 4 Hope Writing Desk/Image obtained from Brights of Nettlebed

Figure 4 shows a Hope designed writing table which is a brilliant example of Regency period



Figure 5 Hope Over Mantle Mirror/Image obtained from O'Sullivan's Antiques

furniture with its dark rich wood (rosewood, mahogany and ebony were popular), empire style and Greek/Roman motifs which were typical of this period. Figure 5 shows an over mantle mirror designed by Hope with use of a giltwood frame and Greek motifs and shapes typical of the Regency period.

Figure 6 is a sketch of a detail I like from this period. The flame mahogany of the writing desk is highlighted by the simple ebony insert lines.

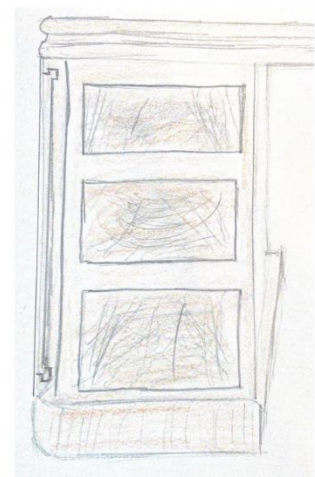


Figure 6 Flame mahogany and Ebony line detail

George Smith, born in London in 1786 was a cabinet maker, upholsterer and furniture design who produced books with detailed furniture drawings which were influential in allowing people to make Regency styled furniture. Figure 7 shows one such example of a backgammon board game table taken from a design from one of his books: 'A Collection of Designs for Household Furniture'. Figure 8 is



Figure 7 Backgammon Table/Image obtained from Godson & Coles



Figure 8 Regency Writing Table/Image obtained from Lapada

another example of a writing table of the period with its distinctive monopodium legs. Note the use of mahogany and ebonised lines which give a 'grandeur' to the design. I personally don't like these grand, bold furniture pieces, but I admire

the craftsmanship of the cabinet makers who produced them. I find it difficult to just sketch these legs, Figure 9, so I can imagine the skill and craftsmanship required to build them.

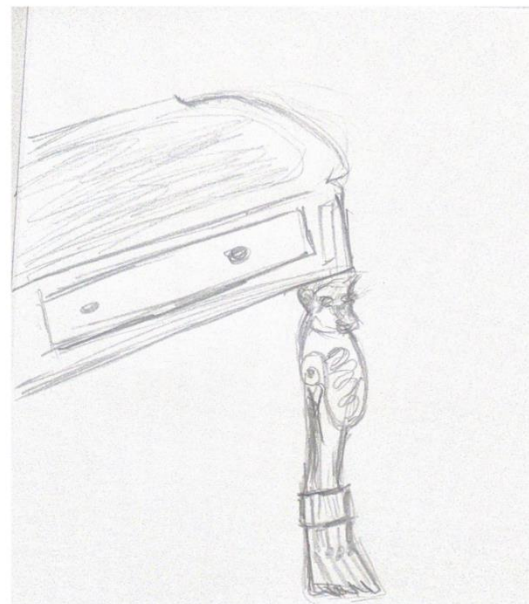


Figure 9 Monopodium Leg Detail

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Figure 2. Regency Cabinet. A Regency Cabinet Attributed To Henry Holland | PDF | Architectural Design | Architecture. (2022). Retrieved 5 February 2022, from <https://www.scribd.com/document/19808915/A-REGENCY-CABINET-ATTRIBUTED-TO-HENRY-HOLLAND>

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Figure 7. Backgammon Table. Regency Period Games Table by George Smith, circa 1810. (2022). Retrieved 5 February 2022, from <https://www.godsonandcoles.co.uk/artworkdetails/823601/17641/regency-period-games-table-by-george>

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Figure 9. Monopodium Leg Detail Sketch by Brian O'Shea.

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