



# Certified Interior Design Professional



Session #5A  
Useful Furniture History



Have you ever thought about when furniture was invented?





- Your clients will use common terms to describe their style. It's up to you to determine what they really mean, and how you're going to interpret their taste.
- At the end of the day, you'll need to create a current design with elements of classic design.

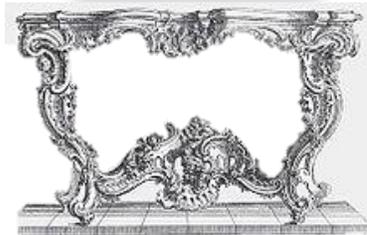
Stay on top of trends

- How was it influenced by the history of furniture?
- What elements are going to remain for future decades?



The best way to create designs that will last, is to use classic elements from furniture history.

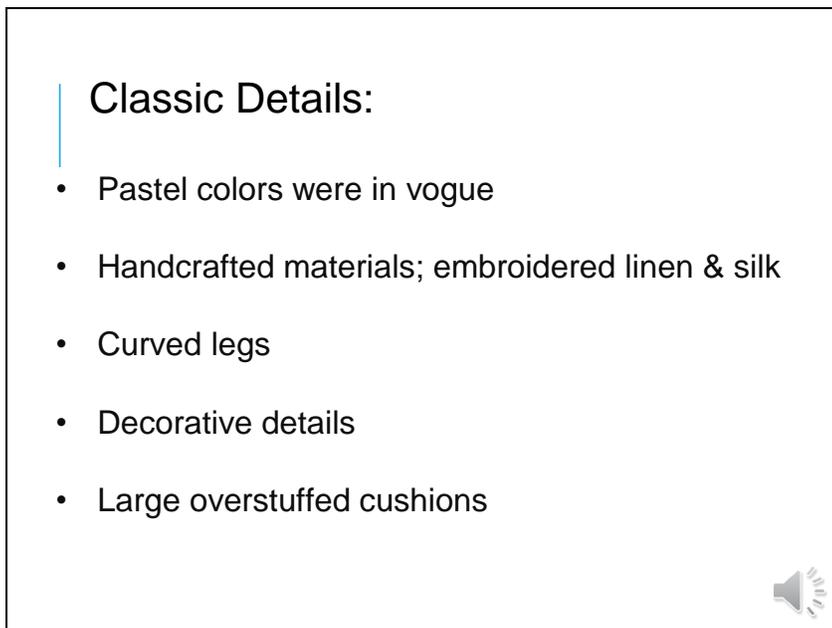
Baroque to Rococo,  
15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> Century France



- Made popular during the building of the Palace of Versailles in France.
- The more ornate and highly stylized a piece was, the more important the owner was.



- French Country and Cottage styles incorporate very similar traits to that of the Baroque and Rococo periods in history.
- Look for decorative metal accents, intricate patterns, and carved wood details on furniture.
- Light colored wood and pastel colors.





The elements of French Country style:

- Overstuffed chair
- Linen slipcovers
- Rustic accessories on the mantle look like those found in a historical French home
- Wingback chair is covered in a casual linen look
- Arched windows in the back with metal hardware

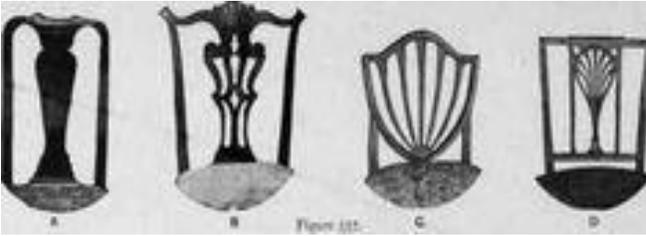


### Queen Anne to Chippendale, 1700-1800 AD



- The Queen Anne period was characterized by the mass production of factory made furniture.
- The stars of the era, were the talented cabinet makers Sheraton, Chippendale, and Hepplewhite.
- Cheap knockoffs flooded the market and threatened to lower the value of the designs.

## Queen Anne to Chippendale, 1700-1800 AD



These chairs represent some common styles in the Early American period. Queen Anne, Chippendale, Sheraton, and Hepplewhite

## Traditional



Traditional design can range from the extremely formal Chippendale style, to the more simplified American look of the Colonial people.

## Classic Details:

- Rich “traditional” colors
- Fancy carved details
- Cherry wood and mahogany
- Highboys, Lowboys, Secretaries
- Sateen fabrics: damasks and brocades



This room has classic elements of a traditional home

- Symmetrical design around the fireplace
- Formal chandelier
- Rich velvet upholstery with decorative trim on the skirt and pillows
- Elegant silk draperies







The Arts and Crafts period in furniture history came about because people were tired of the poorly made, mass produced furniture of the industrial era.

- Pieces were handmade by craftsman (hence the Arts and Crafts name)
- They used mainly oak hardwoods, colored stained glass, hammered iron metal details, and leather upholstery

## Craftsman & Transitional



In today's interiors, you'll see the similar traits.

### Classic Details:

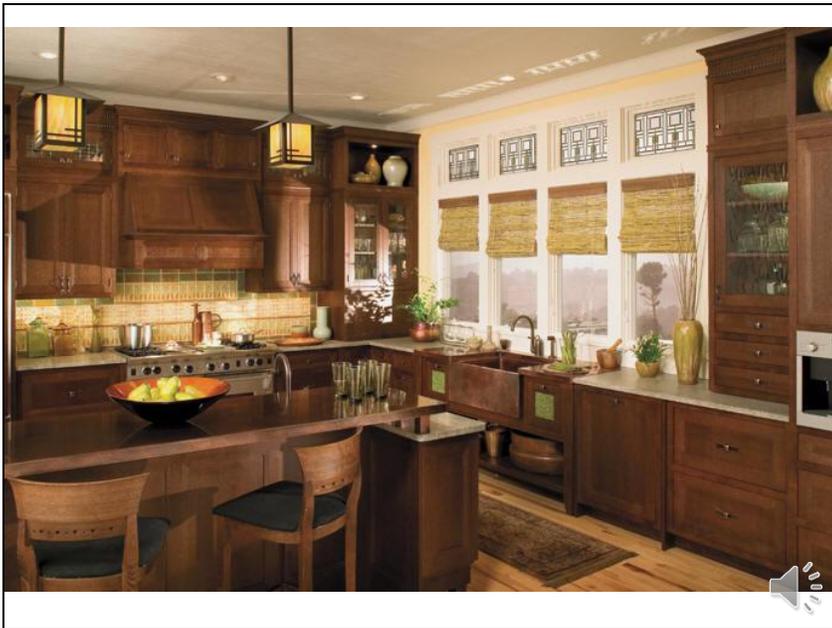
- Thick, wide wood arms and gridwork
- Clean geometric lines and decoration
- Oak
- Stained glass windows
- Leather and tapestry





This modern interior has elements of the Craftsman style

- Stone fireplace with an iron mantel
- Geometric lines in the windows, doors and fireplace
- Leather chairs and simple lines





- The Bauhaus period in history was a time of experimentation and freedom of expression.
- A group of artists, architects and furniture designers formed a school of design in Germany. During WWII, they were driven out by the Nazis' and were forced to scatter across the globe.
- It was one of the most influential group of artists in history.



- Mixed materials were used in furniture design
- Fiberglass molded chairs
- Smooth wood surfaces with light woods like Beach Wood, Teak, and Birch were most common
- Fabrics were both natural like wool, and synthetic. Vinyl and polyester were extremely common
- There was a huge influence from the Scandinavian countries.

### Classic Details:

- Tubular steel, leather, and canvas
- Geometric lines
- Artistic styles
- Scandinavian
- Architectural influenced





- Notice the wood clad ceiling and focal point black fireplace
- The light fixtures are based on designs from the period.
- The arc floor lamp in the corner and the dining room artichoke style fixture
- The dining chairs and the little potato chip chair by Eames
- The open floorplan and light an airy feel are very Mid-Century Modern





- This period began in France before WWI and got its name from the Exposition Internationale des Arts Décoratifs et Industriels Modernes (International Exposition of Modern Decorative and Industrial Arts) held in Paris in 1925
- The use of highly polished chrome, stained glass, and lacquered veneered wood are indicative of the style
- The lines are curved and big in scale
- Think of the Roaring 20's, steamer ships like the Queen Mary, and the age of jazz



- The Shaker style comes from the handmade furniture of the Shaker religion.
- Pieces were simple, well crafted, and devoid of any arbitrary decorations
- The ladder back chairs were meant to be hung on the wall for space saving and cleaning



### Art Nouveau

- A reaction to strict style of the 19th century, it was inspired by natural forms and structures, not only in flowers and plants, but also in curved lines.
- Architects tried to harmonize with the natural environment



- ✓ Look through design magazines and catalogs and notice the influences
- ✓ What are popular styles in your area, and what period are they related to?
- ✓ If you're drawn to one style, do some deep research on the subject.

## Homework for Session #5A

