

American Furniture Styles

Jacobean 1607-90

Construction
 joiners and turners
 frame-and-panel
 mortise-and-tenon joints

Characteristics
 low, solid, horizontal
 surface carving
 applied geometric shapes or half-turnings
 ebonizing

Design Motif
 geometric
 turned components
 linen fold

William and Mary 1690-1725

Construction
 cabinetmaker
 dovetail joinery
 mortise-and-tenon
 turned components
 veneering

Characteristics
 rectilinear, dynamic, vertical
 deep, bold Baroque carving
 extensive turnings

Design Motif
 Spanish feet
 ball feet
 scrolls
 Flemish-style carved crest rails
 trumpet, inverted cup turnings
 S or cyma curve

Queen Anne 1725-60

Construction
 cabinetmaker/workshops
 improved dovetail joinery
 more carving than turning

 architectural manuals

Characteristics
 vertical, lighter, graceful
 balance mass with space
 clean, smooth surfaces
 gentle turnings
 sweeping curves (cyma)
 restrained carving
 symmetrical

Design Motif
 cabriole leg
 pad or spoon foot
 bracket foot (chests)
 shells and fans
 cyma curved splat
 Japanning (Chinoiserie)
 ball-and-claw feet (1730)

Chippendale 1760-85

Construction
 Cabinetmaker/workshops

*The Gentleman's and Cabinet-maker's
 Director* by Thomas Chippendale,
 1754

Characteristics
 opulent and bold
 Asian/Chinoiserie-fanciful, exotic
 Gothic-trefoils, tracery, pointed-arches
 French Rococo-light, ornate, asymmetrical
 brass hardware
 serpentine curves, bombé (chests)
 block-front

Design Motif
 cabriole leg
 ball-and-claw foot
 ogee or bracket foot (chests)
 pierced splat
 cockbeading (drawers)
 foliage, flowers, fruit
 shells, waves

Federal Period 1785-1810

Construction
 trade becomes a business, workshops
 become manufactories with specialists
 (marquetry - ébéniste)

English publications by
 Robert Adam
 George Hepplewhite
 Thomas Sheraton

Characteristics
 light, romantic version of classical style
 clean, simple lines with little ornament
 geometric forms
 delicate
 slender, straight or tapered legs
 circular or semi-elliptical shapes
 marquetry (decorative veneers)
 upholstery with brass tacks

Design Motif
 shield-back
 urns and lyres
 festoons and swags
 saber legs
 lions, sphinxes, and griffins
 paterae (rosettes)
 fluting or reeding
 spade feet

American Empire 1810-40

Construction
 factories replace manufactories

English publication by Thomas Hope

American makers
 Duncan Phyfe
 Charles Lannuier

Characteristics
 literal, authentic adoption of ancient classical motifs
 formal, rectilinear
 heavy, solid and austere
 bronze ormolu mounts
 deeply carved details, often gilded
 glass knobs (late style)

Design Motif
 klismos chair
 saber leg
 reeding (fascas)
 waterleaf
 curule (X-chair)
 lions, sphinxes, and griffins
