

# Mission Furniture: A Timeless Guide to Crafting Beauty

## The Essence of Mission Furniture



**Mission Furniture: How to Make It** by H. H. Windsor

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5



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Mission Furniture, a prominent style of the Arts and Crafts movement, embodies the ideals of simplicity, functionality, and craftsmanship. Originating in the late 19th century, this enduring style continues to captivate furniture enthusiasts with its refined beauty and enduring charm.

Mission Furniture draws inspiration from nature, incorporating organic motifs, such as flowing lines, arches, and geometric patterns. Each piece is meticulously handcrafted with an emphasis on quality materials and joinery techniques, ensuring both durability and aesthetic appeal.

## **The History of Mission Furniture**

### **Gustav Stickley: The Father of Mission Style**



Gustav Stickley (1858-1942) is widely recognized as the father of Mission Style Furniture. As a leading figure in the American Arts and Crafts movement, Stickley sought to create furniture that reflected the ideals of simplicity, functionality, and honesty in design.

In 1898, Stickley founded the Craftsman Workshop in Syracuse, New York, where he produced a wide range of Mission Furniture. His designs were inspired by Shaker and Japanese aesthetics, emphasizing clean lines, exposed joinery, and natural materials such as oak and mahogany.

### **Charles Rohlf and Elbert Hubbard: Notable Contributors**





Another notable figure in the Mission Furniture movement was Charles Rohlf (1853-1936). Rohlf worked closely with Stickley and contributed significantly to the development of Mission Style. His designs were known for their elegant simplicity and attention to detail.

Elbert Hubbard (1856-1915), the founder of the Roycroft community in East Aurora, New York, also played a significant role in the promotion of Mission

Furniture. The Roycroft community produced a variety of handcrafted items, including furniture, metalwork, and leather goods, which embodied the principles of the Arts and Crafts movement.

## **Crafting Mission Furniture: A Step-by-Step Guide**

### **1. Selecting the Right Materials**

The choice of materials is crucial in creating authentic Mission Furniture. Solid hardwoods, such as oak, mahogany, and cherry, are preferred for their durability and aesthetic appeal. Quarter-sawn lumber is often used for its stability and resistance to warping.

### **2. Designing the Piece**

Mission Furniture designs typically follow a few basic principles: simplicity, functionality, and geometric shapes. Sketches and plans are essential for visualizing the final product and ensuring accurate construction.

### **3. Joinery Techniques**

Mission Furniture is known for its sturdy joinery. Mortise-and-tenon joints, dovetail joints, and dowel joints are commonly used to ensure a secure and durable construction.

### **4. Shaping and Finishing**

Mission Furniture often incorporates curved lines and organic motifs. These can be achieved using hand tools or power tools, depending on the complexity of the design. The finishing process typically involves sanding, staining, and applying a protective finish.

## **Mission Furniture Today: A Legacy of Enduring Beauty**



Mission Furniture remains a popular choice for those seeking timeless and functional pieces that complement a variety of decors. Contemporary designers have embraced the principles of Mission Style, creating modern interpretations that blend traditional elements with modern aesthetics.

Mission Furniture continues to inspire furniture makers and home enthusiasts alike. Its emphasis on simplicity, quality, and craftsmanship

ensures that it will remain an enduring symbol of timeless beauty and enduring value.

## Additional Resources

- The Mission Furniture Association
- The Arts and Crafts Society
- Gustav Stickley: A Craftsman's Legacy

Embark on the journey of creating your own Mission Furniture masterpieces with our comprehensive guide. Discover the joy of crafting timeless pieces that will enrich your home and inspire generations to come.



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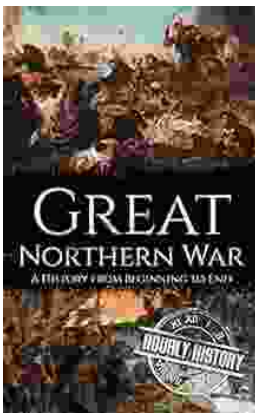






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