

Decorating with Fine Wood Furniture



Developed by Homestead Furniture, Mt. Hope, Ohio

Forward

Wood has been the one constant in furniture manufacturing through the ages—and it is one of very few materials that can be turned, bent, carved and finished to match a person's exact vision or specification. Fine wood furniture can be as distinctive as its function, environment or owner demands. In an age where so much of what passes for wood is just an inexpensive substrate with some kind of wooden topcoat, the richness and lasting beauty of real, solid wood furniture is unmistakable and striking. Of course...we're probably a little biased.

You see, Homestead Furniture grew up in a community of people who make their livelihood constructing quality wood furniture. In the past few years, Ohio's verdant Amish countryside has become a hub for the American furniture manufacturing industry and tiny Mt. Hope is located squarely in the middle of the action. People in this area value craftsmanship, which is why we carry legendary American brands like Norwalk and Harden as well as our original Homestead designs and furniture from superb Ohio craftsmen. And while we probably enjoy thinking, talking and reading about it more than most, our customers and friends tell us we're not the only ones who are captivated with fine wood furniture.

We present this book as part of a larger effort to establish a regular dialogue with interior designers across the country and, indeed, all those who have an appreciation for quality wood furniture. It is not meant to be the definitive study of hardwood furniture in interior design. Rather, we hope it is simply the beginning of the conversation.



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1

Built To Last

Why Fine Wood Furniture Will Always Be In Style

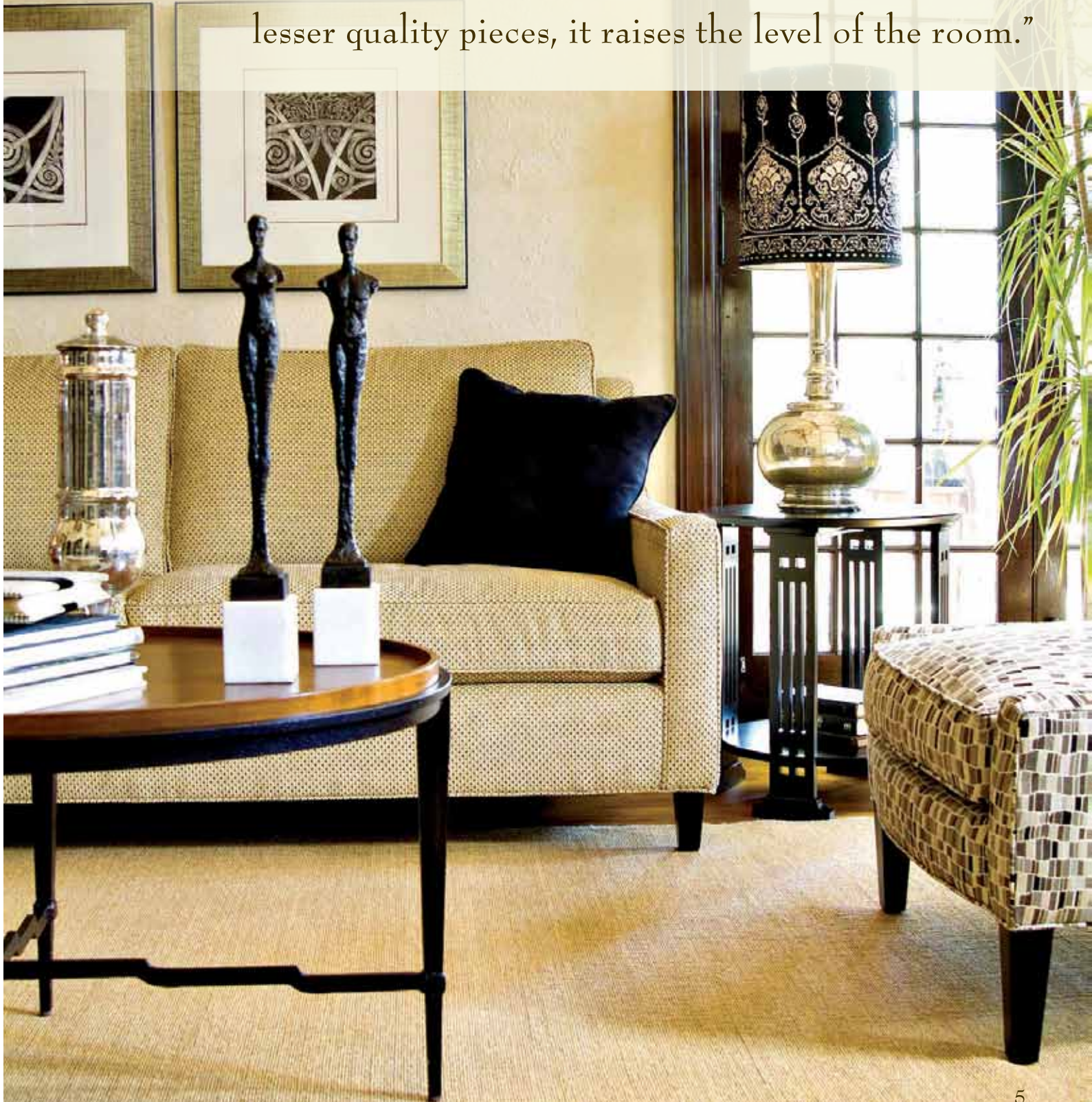
You'll find that some pieces of furniture are typically designed and manufactured in wood for a reason—they just function better that way. For example, desks and bookcases, bedroom and dining room suites are often built to withstand the test of time and be passed down from generation to generation. In a design context, that means you can dress these pieces up or down and freshen up the look frequently without having to start over. "Fabric is fashion," explains Interior Designer Travis Abbott of Travis Abbott Interiors. "That's going to change every few years. But fine wood furniture is like dressing classically... it's always going to be in style."

So while your carpets, draperies, upholstery, lamps and accessories may not have staying power, your investment in hardwood furniture can last a lifetime or longer. "I love working with my clients' heirloom wood furniture,"

says Designer Laura Gills of Laura Gills, An Interior Design Company. "When you put better quality pieces in with lesser quality pieces, it raises the level of the room. You can't always tell the difference between a \$1,200 sofa and a \$3,000 sofa, but with wood, you'll see the difference. There's no way to hide it. If I have to fuss with a budget, I will always go cheaper with the upholstery rather than the wood."

Abbott explains, "In my experience, there are two kinds of clients; those who choose to invest in fine furniture, want to have it forever and give it to their kids and those who want the look and are happy to throw it out in two years. If you're the type who wants to invest, that piece can be reinvented from season to season or house to house. It becomes the inspiration piece for the room."

“When you put better quality pieces in with lesser quality pieces, it raises the level of the room.”





Interior Designer Sandy Varelmann of Weave Ideas adds, “If you go to art museums and antique stores, you’ll find pieces that are centuries old and still perfectly beautiful, perfectly functional. Most people have pieces that have been passed on to them. Those pieces are special, they have a connection to the family and we want to focus on using them in ways

that enhance the space. Use those pieces as your starting point and let that lead the design for the rest of the space.”

And what happens if you’ve inherited a piece of furniture that you’re not exactly thrilled with? Don’t panic. There may be a way you can have your cake and eat it too. “If it’s a set, sometimes we’ll break it up

and use the buffet somewhere else- as a large hallway piece,” says Gills. Or if it’s a single piece, you might consider some modifications like refurbishing or re-staining the wood for a different tone, changing out the hardware, painting or distressing the wood or creating a new piece of custom furniture to work with it. Same emotional connection, great new look!

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2

Custom Furniture



“Custom pieces open up a world of possibilities.”



Bringing Together Old And New

These days, there's nothing some furniture craftsmen can't do. You can have custom wood furniture built to match or complement a piece that you've inherited or one you bought a few years back. Mixing the old with the new has never been so easy—or so cost-effective. Erin Palmer, Interior Designer for Homestead Furniture explains, "If you already have a piece that you love, Homestead Furniture can build something very similar in style. If you want something that matches in style and shape but isn't an exact match, perhaps a different wood species or a different color would complement it nicely. When budget is an issue, we can make recommendations that will keep costs down."

Palmer recalls one occasion when a customer brought in a wooden beam from an old barn on the homestead where he and his siblings had grown up: "He asked if we could make something out of it that he could give to each of his brothers and sisters—a remembrance. We made six wooden lamps, all exactly alike, and he was touched. He told us that one sister started crying on the spot when he presented her with the lamp."

"Custom pieces open up a world of possibilities," remarks Varelmann. "I did a custom dining table one time for an older couple and I designed it in such a way that it had three

sections/segments to it. They could break one section away and snug it up in front of the window for dinner each night when it was just the two of them, or they could hook the pieces to the main island for entertaining. We were able to provide functionality and beauty, in just the shape and size they needed. There's a misconception out there that custom is expensive but it doesn't have to be. If that's why some people shy away from it, they shouldn't."

"There are some beautiful stock things," adds Gills. "I don't need to reinvent the wheel every time. But, when designing a space, we often hit



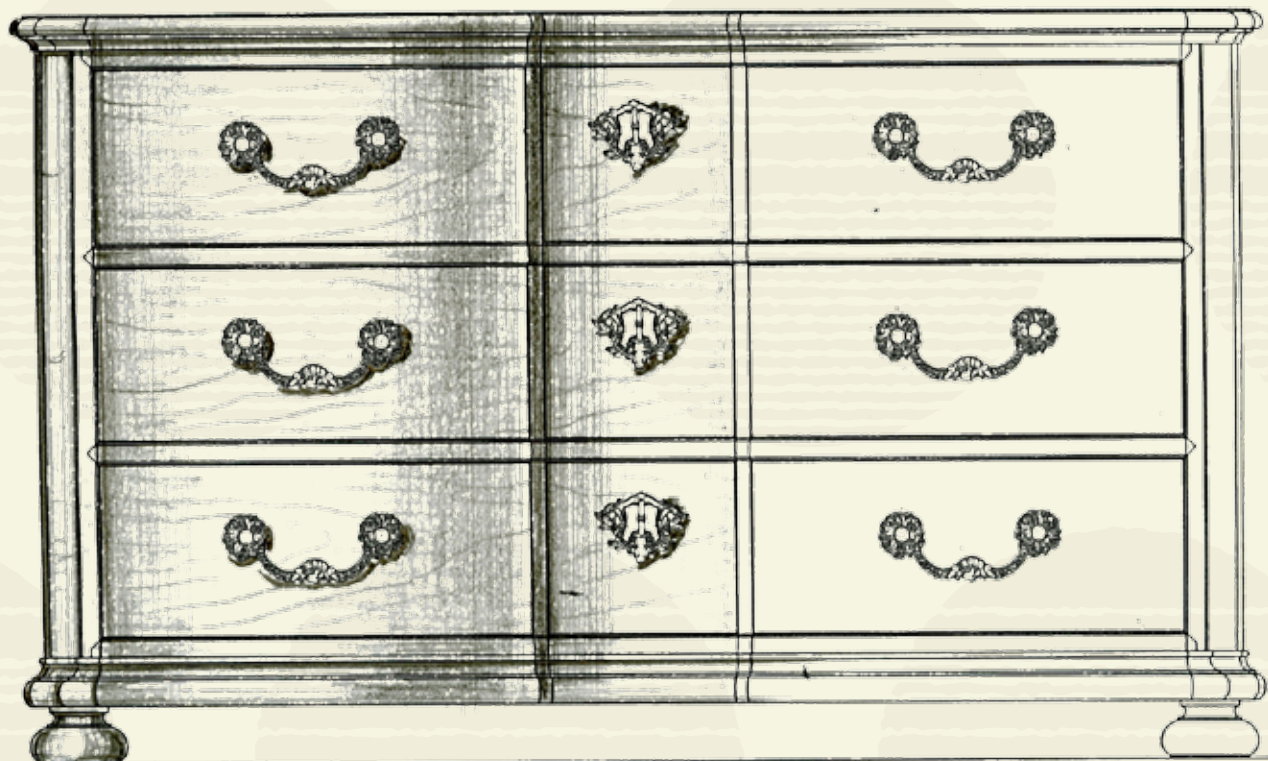
this roadblock where we know what we're looking for but just can't find it. If a manufacturer can offer the custom capability, we designers love that. And usually it's just a problem of size or scale—I just need this another foot bigger or smaller.”

Even if you've never considered customizing your own furniture before, you owe it to yourself to shop around and consider all the options. “I try to go the custom furniture route whenever I can,” remarks Abbott. “I'd rather the business go to someone local that I can meet and talk things over with. But the bottom line for homeowners is you have to establish a budget for yourself. Be honest with yourself about what you can afford and, once you have a number you're comfortable with, look around. You may discover that custom isn't as expensive as you think.”

“If you want something that matches in style and shape but isn't an exact match, perhaps a different wood species or a different color would complement it nicely.”



HEN 5000-XX MIRROR
W. 38 1/2" D. 1 1/2" H. 49 5/8"



5000-03 DRESSER
W. 64" x D. 22 1/2" x H. 38 1/2"

*sketch by: Jim Snip,
Homestead Furniture Designer*

A Great Piece of Wood Furniture Starts With a Great Piece of Wood

We're surrounded with it everyday—as we eat together at the breakfast table first thing in the morning, drive down the tree-lined road to work, sit at our desks, take the dog for a walk in the park and finally settle into our wood-framed beds, ready to do it all over again tomorrow. Yet, most of us spend little to no time thinking about wood, admiring its grain, remarking at its strength and permanence, or running our fingers over a satin finish. Fewer still are able to identify one wood species from another, much less state a preference for a particular variety.

Nevertheless, the ability to appreciate and decorate with fine wood furniture starts with an understanding of the wood itself. “Typically, furniture manufacturers and their customers choose a wood based on its color, natural grain and durability,” explains Palmer. “Wood is infinitely versatile,” she

adds. “It can be warm or cold depending on the finish and scale of the piece.”

In the Appendix at the end of this book, we examine five different wood species, paying special attention to the color, the grain and the durability of each.

Choosing a Wood Species

With approximately 100,000 known species of trees, furniture manufacturers and furniture buyers today have a lot of options. Along with the more commonplace American and European hardwoods like Walnut, Cherry, White Oak, Red Oak, Maple Walnut and Mahogany, there are exotic hardwoods like the Afzelia and Amboyna burl from Asia or Zebrawood from central Africa. Gills, who recently returned from a trip to the Congo Rainforest, reminds furniture buyers, “You have to ask where the wood is coming from.” Not only are exotic

A close-up photograph of a rustic wooden bedside table. On the table sits a lamp with a warm, glowing light, a black metal bookend, and an open book. Behind the table, a bed with a wooden headboard is visible, featuring a white pillow and a patterned throw blanket. The scene is cozy and inviting, emphasizing the versatility of wood in home decor.

“Wood is infinitely versatile.”



White Oak

Walnut

Soft Maple

Red Oak

Curly Maple

woods generally more costly because of the time and labor involved in harvesting and transporting them from their native habitat, many are also considered threatened species. In some cases, reforestation efforts have not kept up with the pace of destruction. Gills reminds us that even our own American Walnut was nearly depleted back in the 19th Century because of deforestation.

Rest assured, responsible manufacturers and organizations like the US Forest Stewardship Council are doing their best to encourage judicious management of the world's forests. Homestead Furniture is a founding member of the Sustainable Furnishings Council, with most of its hard woods coming from the Great Lakes region. And, for consumers who love the look of exotic woods, there are still some options. "Depending on

the exotic you're going for, you can achieve the same effect with a rift cut oak," explains Abbott. "You can have the look of Wenge without the cost or issues involved with a tropical wood."

Varelmann remarks, "There is perhaps a difference between exotics that come from Asia, Africa and the Middle East and woods like Sapele or Butternut. These are both less costly, have lovely grain structures and are easy for a woodworker to work with. They are woods that are overlooked but are often a nice complement." She adds that reclaimed wood (used wood that will be repurposed) is another good way to create that aged look, add interest and character while still being eco-conscious. "Chestnut is nearly extinct but reclaimed Chestnut is simply beautiful."

For those who don't have a fondness for any wood species

in particular, Gills advises to let the period or style of furniture you're going for be your guide. "If you're trying to achieve a particular period or stylistic look, that will lead you towards a species. If contemporary furniture is more your style, you have fewer rules and you can go far beyond this wood or that."

Finally, when it comes to choosing the color or stain of the wood, consider the natural attributes of the wood species you've chosen. Different species will take a stain differently. Maple is rather resistant to stain whereas Cherry and Birch take stain well. Varelmann adds that some woods darken over time. "You might start with a Cherry that is a particular tone and over time it will darken and richen. Walnut behaves the opposite way and fades with time." Gills concludes, "Just remember, you're relying on the color and pattern of wood to make your statement."

White Oak

Maple Birdseye

African Mahogany

Hickory

Claro Walnut



“If you’re trying to achieve a particular period or stylistic look, that will lead you towards a species.”

Veneers

It seems that no examination of wood species and wood furniture would be complete without a brief mention of veneers. According to Wood Identification & Use, “The art of cutting veneer involves making carefully judged cuts through the appropriate plane in order to expose the surface that has the most interesting characteristics and figure.” In other words, veneers are thin layers of an exotic or rare wood glued to a stronger, generally less-expensive wood base. In some cases, veneers are done as a cost-cutting measure. However, they have also been used historically in many furniture styles to create a decorative inlay.

“Protection and wearability is all about your surface coat,” explains Gills. “It’s only as good as the top layer. Veneer, if its properly applied, is usually on a substrate that is less likely to warp or shrink than a solid piece of wood, especially on a large surface plane.”

Abbott adds, “Veneers often get a bad rap. Many of them are poorly constructed overseas. However, they can also create a very upscale look at a lower price point. Veneers can be used to create an intricate pattern, and in most cases the end result is actually stronger than real wood, and it won’t expand or contract. So you get the pattern, you get the strength and the durability.”

According to Varelmann, it has its applications. “In certain portions of the pieces we do, it makes sense to use a veneer. Let’s say



we’re working in a Maple and we don’t want to use solid Maple on every face, we can use some veneer to give the piece more stability. In bookcases or chests, it makes sense. You may choose veneer because you want stability or you may choose veneer with an inlay for a decorative accent.”



4

Wood Furniture Styles

A Survey of Hard Wood Furniture Styles from Traditional to Transitional

While it would be easy to dedicate an entire book to describing the numerous styles of hardwood furniture (and many have), we have chosen to concentrate on the most common and the most influential. We will be drawing from Butler's Field Guide to American Antique Furniture for a glimpse at the origins and characteristics of each. While you may not be able to walk into a furniture store and identify an individual item based on these descriptions, you will get a feel for the range of styles and influences that an interior designer or salesperson may talk about.

Shaker (1774-1865)



Furniture created by the Shakers, a religious sect that came to America from England in 1774 and settled in various parts of New England, New York, Kentucky and Ohio. Functional, devoid of ornamentation and revealing graceful and delicately constructed lines and proportions.



Arts & Crafts/Mission (1850-1900)



The Arts and Crafts movement developed as a result of the philosophy of English art critic John Ruskin and writer William Morris. Both men pushed the honest use of materials and a return to handcrafting in furniture making. This

movement stresses humble, hand-made products as well as proper material and craftsmanship. Typically constructed of oak, Arts and Crafts furniture can be identified by its simple forms and medieval style of decoration. By 1900, Gustav Stickley of Eastwood, New York had adapted the Arts & Crafts style and began to make oak furniture with square lines and visible mortise-and-tenon joints. This became known as Mission style because of the functional “mission” for which the furniture was intended.

***Traditional* Queen-Anne (1725-1755)**

The introduction of the fluid, curving line represented the fundamental stylistic change during the Queen Anne period. These curves were based on a scroll-like element first seen in French decorative art in about 1700 and was now expressed in the rounded cabriole leg, curved cresting piece, vase shaped splat, and shell carving.



Rococo **(1720-1785)**

The Rococo style originated in France in the 1720s and is associated with the ornament, style and design of Louis XV's reign. Derived from the French words *rocaille*, referring to rockwork or rock forms, and *coquille*, or shell patterns. The shell motif or shell-like curves were common of this style. Overall, Rococo can be characterized by lighter forms, frivolous decoration and more playful curvilinear lines.



Chippendale (1755-1780)

Originating in England during the late 1730s and 1740s, the Chippendale style combined French Rococo, Chinese ornamentation, known from imported objects, and the Gothic style.

Named after Thomas Chippendale, remembered primarily for his pattern book called *The Gentlemen and Cabinet Makers Director*, which illustrated furniture that combined Rococo, Chinese and Gothic elements. At this time, mahogany became the most widely used wood in cabinetmaking and ornamental carving was favored over veneer and inlay. The claw and ball foot became extremely popular.

Chinese Chippendale

The Chinese influence on the Chippendale style had two major components—the adaptation of actual Far Eastern furniture from pieces that were being widely imported from the Orient and the imaginative Western interpretations of Chinese designs.

Federal (1780-1820)

Also known as American neoclassicism. Denotes the period after the Revolution when a new wave of cabinetmakers began arriving in

the US from England, Ireland, Scotland and later France. These craftsmen brought ideas from the popular European furniture pattern books to a rising new class of wealthy merchants who wanted to stay abreast of the latest trends in Europe.

Duncan Phyfe (1800-1820)

New York cabinetmaker Duncan Phyfe made fashionable furniture for the carriage trade of his day. While not a style in and of itself, Duncan Phyfe style has come to encompass a broad range of the



period's classical styles including Empire, Sheraton, Regency, Federal and French Classical.

European Neoclassical

In general, Neoclassical forms are delicate and balanced. Satinwoods and other exotic woods were used primarily for inlay. Characterized by a straight tapered or turned leg in direct contrast to the curvilinear lines of the Rococo style.



Hepplewhite

George Hepplewhite wrote *The Cabinetmaker and Upholsterer's Guide* in 1788, disseminating neoclassicism through Europe and later the US. Characterized by a square tapering leg as well as inlay and decorative motifs like the Prince of Wales feathers, medallions, drapery and sheaves of wheat. His chair backs tended to be either shield or heart-shaped.

Country French

Draws from many other periods in French history including Louis XV, Louis XVI, Regency, Directoire and Louis Philippe. Epitomizes casual yet elegant living and plays off designs found in country homes throughout Normandy, Provence and Bordeaux. Characterized by a mixing of styles that include



farmhouse tables, chairs, sideboards and armoires, oak dining tables with white painted chairs and dressers. Not overly ornate. Incorporates natural materials.

Modern / Contemporary

The difference between modern and contemporary furniture is a bit harder to define. Much newer than the traditional styles, modern furniture was a reaction against a historical period. It came out of the early 20th Century and was heavily influenced by the Art Deco and Art Nouveau architectural styles popular at that time. Contemporary furniture is even newer. You might describe it as what is current—characterized by espresso-colored wood and sleek angular lines with minimal ornament or decoration.

Transitional / Hybrid

Transitional furniture can complement any number of furniture styles because of its clean, simple lines. Beidermeier, an influential style of furniture design from Germany in the early to mid-1800s, is an example of a utilitarian design that was characterized by its clean lines and minimal ornamentality. It is considered a transitional or a hybrid style because it looks as natural in a 21st century interior as a two-century old home.



Contemporary

5

Home Transformations

Where Wood Can Make all the Difference

Adding or changing the character of your home is about more than choosing the right furniture. Often, it's the architectural detail or millwork that makes a difference. When we're talking about wood, that detail can come in the form of hardwood flooring, window and door casings, wainscot walls and custom mantelpieces, to name a few. According to *Decorating with Architectural Trimwork* by Jay Silber, "Many of the housing styles we think of as American architecture are identified, at least in part, by the trimwork that graces

their walls, doors, windows and mantels." Unfortunately, it seems as though homebuilders are including fewer of these details today in an effort to keep costs down—particularly when it comes to more modest homes. Yet, most interior designers and furniture manufacturers feel that architectural woodworking is one of the most overlooked and underutilized ways of making a home or a room distinctive. That's why this chapter will focus on this essential component of "Decorating with Fine Wood Furniture."







Elements of Design

Fine Wood Furniture

Includes dining room suites, bedroom suites, desks, end tables, TV consoles and entertainment centers, etc.

Hardwood Floors

Sets the tone for a room and allows for decorating with rugs.

Ceilings

One of the most underutilized areas in decorating a home. Adds dimension to a space and has the ability to set a room apart.

Casings for Windows and Doors

This trim frames windows and doors and can be as simple or as elaborate as you like. Contributes to the overall design scheme of the room.

Crown Molding, Chair Rail and Baseboard

Horizontal trimwork that can be teamed up with wall panels or wainscoting for a distinctive look.

Wainscoting

Wainscoting refers to any framing or panels that are used to create a decorative treatment for the lower portion of the wall.



Pillars and Pilasters

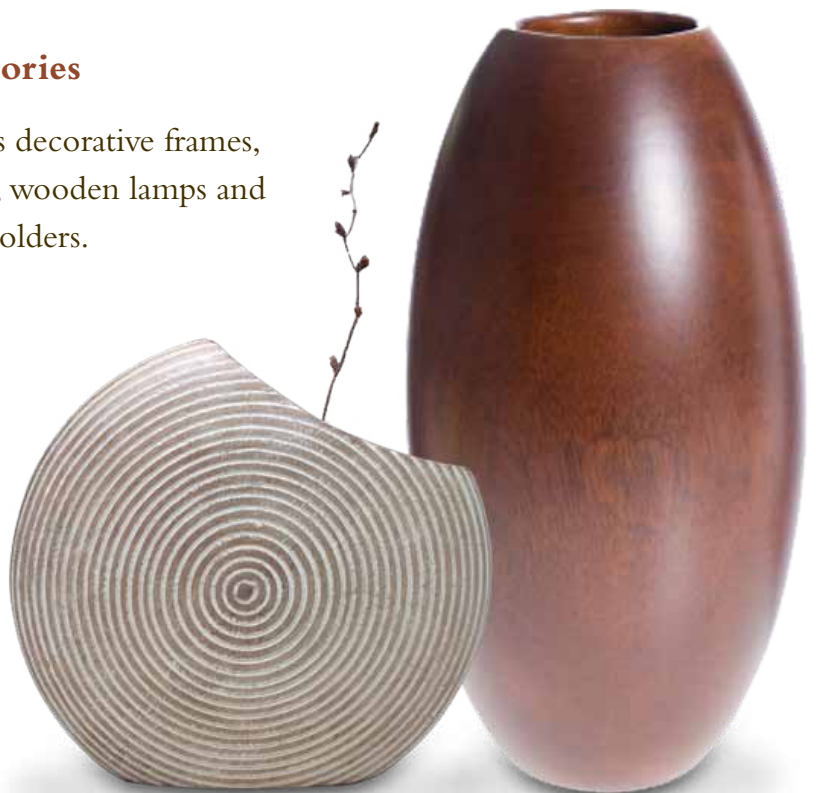
Pillars and Pilasters are ornamental touches that can define main entrances and passageways.

Fireplace Mantels & Built-In Cabinets

A custom mantelpiece or built-in cabinets add architectural detail and character to a room.

Accessories

Includes decorative frames, mirrors, wooden lamps and candleholders.





Homestead Furniture brought the luxurious warmth of handcrafted hardwoods to this custom-designed home library in New Philadelphia, Ohio.





“A room is just a box,” comments Gills. “And what makes one box Georgian and another Mission is the millwork. So, if somebody wants to take an ordinary, simple room and really make it architecturally interesting, you’re very likely going to be doing some millwork.” She explains that, when working with a brand new client, one of the first things she does is ask to see the house. In this way, Gills gets a feel for whether or not the home has a particular architectural style and whether the room or space in question fits with that style.

Varelmann adds, “I spend quite a bit of time looking at the profiles of the wood casings and moldings. When you’re doing a base or a crown molding, there are a multitude of profiles to choose from but you can also have your own profile made. I spend a lot of time coming up with crown and base and trim profiles that are unique so that it’s truly custom to my client—their space and their style.” Varelmann feels it’s those small simple touches that make people feel like there’s something special about the space.

6

Here, There & Everywhere

How Much Wood is Too Much?

Now that we've talked about the many types of wood, styles of wood furniture and ways to incorporate architectural woodworking, you may be wondering how much is too much. Naturally, the answer is, "It depends." It depends on the size of your space, the amount of natural light in the room, how many different wood species you're planning to use together, how you're going to work in textiles and upholstery, etc.

According to Abbott, "The only rule is there are no rules. I've used four or five wood species together, which is not to say I haven't used 10. It's really about what feels right." Abbott says it's this "creative eye" that clients are hiring when they choose to work with an interior designer. Gills agrees, but adds that there are some general guidelines homeowners can follow: "It depends on the skill of the person selecting those things. Two to three wood species is a generally decent guideline. Art

is about breaking the rules and making it work. If someone is fluent as a designer, he or she may be able to pull off a lot more."

Varelmann explains her process. "I'll typically select two or three wood species to work with but I'm also looking at the undertone. Every wood has an undertone of red, yellow or brown and I'm very careful about mixing and matching those shades. You may want to mix it up within the colors, but not between colors." While it is possible to manipulate the natural color of the wood with a stain, you can only go so far. Gills adds, "You are looking for woods that have some continuity in their undertones. A Golden Oak next to Maple would be complimentary whereas a Cherry and Golden Oak would be awful."

As for how many pieces of furniture in a room, a good rule of thumb is to put functionality





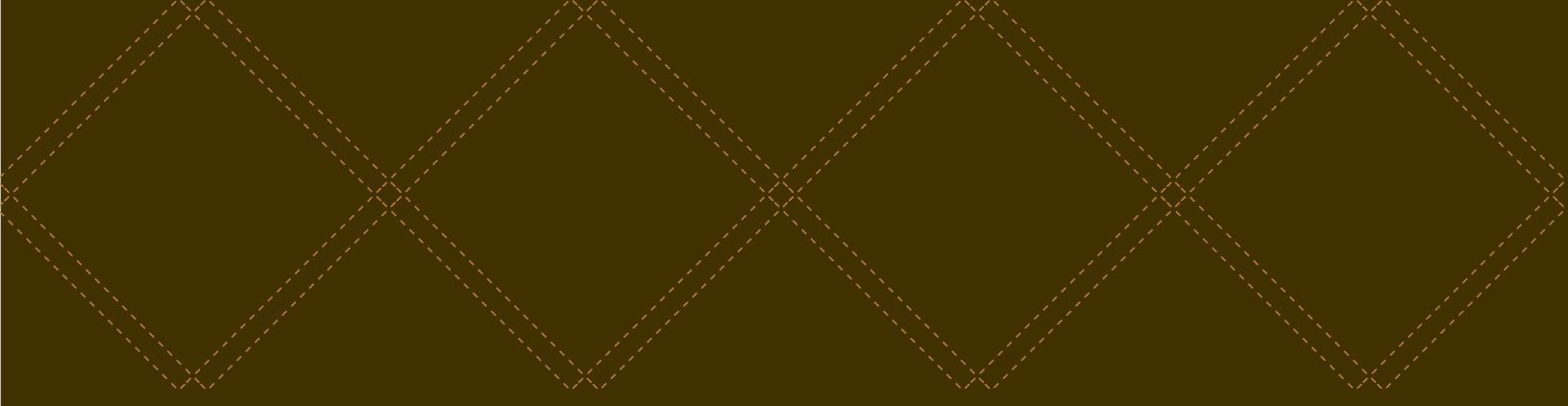
first. As long as the space is functional, has a natural flow and you can walk around, you should be fine. “What really matters is that all your pieces work together,” explains Varelmann. “Say you have a wood floor, this big grounding base and then you have your furniture and your trim on top of it. Something has to link them together.”

Gills adds, “Also, certain looks or styles embrace more variety than others. If you’re going for a very European look, you may go heavy on the wood furniture and still have a wood parquet floor. With a Shaker-style room, it’s less is more. Shakers like things clean and simple. They used to hang their chairs on the walls.” Abbott concurs: “There’s no real formula. It’s about how many pieces are in the room, how much can we mix it up and how am I still going to link it up.”

The scale of the wood furniture is another serious consideration. According to Gills, “Different periods or styles will tend to

have different scale. These days, builders are incorporating a lot of cathedral ceilings and open floor plans which makes the scale of the furniture even more important.” Don’t let a room or a space overpower your furniture. At the same time, one piece of furniture shouldn’t dominate or crowd an entire room. Custom furniture may be the ideal solution in situations like these. Palmer adds, “When a customer comes into Homestead Furniture with a vision for a particular piece of furniture, it’s our job to make it happen. We’ll sit down with them, sketch up what they’re describing, take measurements of the space and bring their visions to life.”

Gills explains, “It’s not always easy for homeowners to describe what style they like or what pieces they want to use. Often times, we simply ask them to describe the atmosphere that they want to create, the intent of the room. How do you want it to feel? How do you want to feel when you’re in this room? That’s often the best guide.”

A decorative pattern of overlapping dashed white diamonds on a dark brown background, located at the top of the page.

“What really
matters is
that all your
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*Travis Abbott***Travis Abbott Interior**

At Travis Abbot Interior, we determine the client's individual style, and then use our knowledge and aesthetic to help them realize their vision. Our relationships with highly skilled craftsmen and leading suppliers allow us to provide the best possible resources to create truly unique living spaces. We offer an array of services, from the acquisition of one or two pieces (to complete your decor) to entire home renovations. Attention to detail, the ability to meet deadlines, and the support of a professional and dedicated staff are just a few of the features that distinguish Travis Abbott Interior.

To discuss your home interior project, call 1-877-570-3633, e-mail travis@travisabbottinterior.com or visit us online at www.travisabbottinterior.com.

*Erin Palmer***Interior Design Specialist Homestead Furniture**

Erin Palmer is the Interior Design Coordinator for Homestead Furniture in Mt. Hope, Ohio. She received her interior design degree from The Art Institute of Pittsburgh and provides professional design expertise for all areas of the home or office. Palmer spends her days guiding customers through the nearly unlimited options that Homestead's custom furniture capability and large upholstery selection make possible.

Visit Homestead's Design Gallery or contact Erin at (330) 473-7488 or HomesteadFurniture@gmail.com to schedule a design consultation. Visit us online at www.HomesteadFurnitureOnline.com

Laura Gills

Laura Gills, An Interior Design Company



Located at 9138 Tyler Blvd. in Mentor, Ohio, Laura Gills, an Interior Design Company, offers complete design services for both residential and commercial interiors. Gills is a professional member of ASID (American Society of Interior Designers) and services all of northern Ohio as well as maintaining clients in Philadelphia and Florida. An avid boater, Gills recently launched Freshwater Gills, an interior design company specializing in the redesign and

refurbishing of boat interiors.

To see how Laura Gills, An Interior Design Company can help you transform your interior, call (440) 255-4935 or visit us online at:

www.LauraGillsInteriorDesign.com or www.FreshwaterGills.com

Sandy Varelmann

Weave Ideas



Sandra Varelmann, ASID, NCIDQ, graduated from Ursuline College with a Bachelor's in Interior Design. She spent nine years working with a local architectural firm, honing her design skills before opening her own firm three years ago. In the past decade, Varelmann has worked on more than 120 projects in Cleveland, Cape Cod, San Francisco, and Naples, creating several award-winning commercial and residential interiors. Her work has appeared in Northern Ohio

Live, The Cleveland Plain Dealer, Cleveland Business Connects, and The News Herald.

She was also featured on the local Fox 8 television program "Style Swap." Varelmann specializes in high-end residential design, coastal design, hospitality design, and educational design with a special focus on the practice of Feng Shui and its application to the interior environment.

Contact Weave Ideas for your next interior design project by calling (440) 473-0284 or visit www.weaveideas.com for more information.

About Homestead Furniture

At Homestead Furniture in tiny Mt. Hope, Ohio, you'll find 27,000 square feet of showrooms filled with beautiful displays of hardwood and upholstered furniture. You'll find legendary American brands like Norwalk, Harden and Classic Leather, along with original Homestead designs from superb Ohio craftsmen. Most importantly, you'll find a staff of experienced interior and furniture designers who will help you create a look all your own.

Come visit, share your vision and leave as a friend.

Mt. Hope, Ohio. SR 241, In Amish Country.

8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon-Sat

1-866-674-4902

www.homesteadfurnitureonline.com



American. Originals.
Homestead
F U R N I T U R E

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Appendix Of Wood Species

Hardwoods and Softwoods

Nearly all wood furniture is made from hardwood or softwood. As their names would imply, hardwoods are generally harder than softwoods. However, these terms are botanical classifications and have little to do with a tree's density.

Essentially, hardwoods are dense, broad-leaved, deciduous trees that drop their leaves every year. Softwoods are less dense conifers that hold onto their needles year round. Mahogany, Teak, Walnut, Oak, Ash, Elm, Aspen, Poplar, Birch and Maple are all examples of hardwood. You'll find

temperate hardwoods throughout the northern and southern hemispheres while tropical hardwoods come from the rainforests of South and Central America, sub-Saharan Africa and South-East Asia. Pine, Spruce, Cedar, Fir, Larch and Douglas Fir are all examples of softwood and they can only be found in the northern hemisphere.

Drawing from the book, *Wood Identification & Use* by Terry Porter, we will turn our attention to the hardwoods that are most commonly used in the furniture making craft:

American Walnut



Grows: Canada and USA

Typical height: 70-90ft

Trunk diameter: 2-4ft

Uses: American Walnut is prized in cabinetmaking and is also the wood of choice for US gunstocks and rifle butts. It is also used for quality furniture, architectural work, flooring, boatbuilding, musical instruments, turnery, carving, office furniture sporting goods and umbrella handles. It is sliced for decorative veneers and is an important wood for making plywood. The tree also produces edible nuts.

Color: The color of this wood ranges from light grayish-brown to dark chocolate or purplish-black.

Grain: The slightly open grain is typically straight but can be curly or wavy. The texture is coarse, but American Walnut develops a lustrous patina over time.

Burls, stumpwood and crotches produce a notable mottled, curly and wavy figure.

Properties: This hard, tough wood has moderate crushing and bending strength, low stiffness and steam-bends well.

American Cherry



Grows: Canada and USA

Typical height: 80ft

Trunk diameter: 2ft

Uses: Typically used in furniture, cabinetmaking, quality joinery, turnery, carving, musical instruments like pianos and

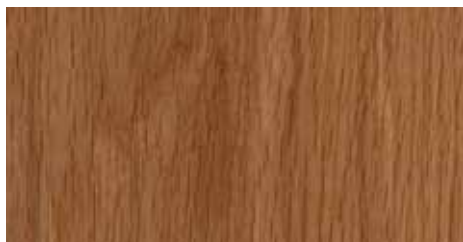
violin bows and decorative veneers.

Color: The color of this wood ranges from reddish-brown to deep red or lighter red-brown, with brown flecks and small gum pockets.

Grain: It has a fine, straight, close grain, a smooth texture and a rich satiny luster.

Properties: The wood has medium strength and moderate durability, low stiffness and good bending properties. It steam-bends well.

American White Oak



Grows: Eastern Canada and USA
Typical height: 80–100ft
Trunk diameter: 3–4ft

Uses: Used in furniture and cabinetmaking, joinery, office furniture, boatbuilding, trim, paneling, flooring, cooperage

for wine and whisky, coffins, shingles, railroad ties and figured veneers.

Color: The color of this wood can vary from light tan or pale yellow-brown to dark or pale brown and can occasionally have a pinkish tint.

Grain: American White Oak has a straight open grain and is medium to coarse in texture. IT has longer rays than red oak and therefore displays more character, which can include swirls, crotch pattern, burls and a tiger-ray flake pattern

Properties: This hard, heavy wood has medium crushing and bending strength and low stiffness. It has excellent steam-bending properties, is nearly waterproof and has exceptional resistance to wear.

American Red Oak



Grows: Eastern Canada and USA
Typical height: 80–100ft
Trunk diameter: 3–4ft

Uses: Used in furniture and cabinetmaking, joinery, boatbuilding, flooring including parquet, organ pipes, railroad ties and decorative veneers.

Color: This heartwood has a pinkish to reddish-brown color.

Grain: While similar in appearance to White Oak, Red Oak has smaller rays, creating a less pronounced figure. The grain is typically straight and open but can vary. It has a coarse texture but this can also vary depending on the origin of the tree. Quartersawn stock can have a flake pattern that is sometimes referred to as “butterflies” or “tiger rays.”

Properties: This hard, heavy wood has medium stiffness and bending strength. It has excellent steam-bending properties, is nearly waterproof and has exceptional resistance to wear. It also works well with sharp hand and machine tools. It has a moderate blunting effect on cutting edges, but can be planed, sawn, turned, bored and sanded well. It also takes stains and polishes well.

European Maple



Grows: Europe, including UK; Turkey; USA
Typical height: 65ft
Trunk diameter: 1-2ft

Uses: Used for turnery, furniture and interior joinery, brush backs and woodenware. Select wood is sliced to make highly decorative veneers.

Color: When freshly cut, this wood is creamy-white, but it ages to a light tan.

Grain: The grain is usually straight, but can be wavy or curly. It has a smooth fine texture and a naturally high luster, especially on quartered surfaces.

Properties: Low stiffness with medium crushing and bending strengths. It steam-bends well.

American Mahogany



Grows: Central American and northern South America
Typical height: 150ft
Trunk diameter: 6ft

Uses: Used in high-quality furniture and cabinetmaking, turnery, reproduction furniture, boat interiors, musical instruments including pianos, canoes and shipbuilding. Also available as a highly decorative veneer.

Color: Varies considerably. When freshly cut, it may be yellowish, reddish, pinkish, or salmon-pink. Matures to a deep rich red or brown with time.

Grain: Ranges from straight to roey, curly or wavy. Grain irregularities produce very attractive characteristics such as mottle, stripe or roe, blister and fiddleback. All American Mahogany is highly lustrous and golden.

Properties: Low stiffness and high durability. Low bending strength although it steam-bends moderately well.



Homestead Furniture is a member of the Sustainable Furnishings Council, an organization dedicated to promoting sustainable practices and raising awareness among suppliers, manufacturers, retailers, designers and consumers. Together, we work to ensure the legal procurement of wood from responsibly managed forests, recycle and reuse materials, reduce carbon emissions and work for social justice.

For more information, visit www.sustainablefurnishings.org.

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