HISTORY OF INTERIOR DESIGN
PREHISTORIC & PRIMITIVE DESIGN
ANCIENT WORLD
MEDIEVAL/MIDDLE AGES
RENAISSANCE
INDUSTRIAL ERA
TWENTIETH CENTURY
FUTURE DIRECTION
PREHISTORIC
PREHISTORIC & PRIMITIVE DESIGN

ANCIENT MESOPOTAMIAN HOUSES

ANCIENT AZTECS HOUSES

ANCIENT CHINESE HOUSES
ANCIENT MESOPOTAMIAN HOUSES

The Sumerians were the first to build great cities in Mesopotamia.

Building Material: **MUD BRICK DRIED IN SUN**

Upper class – double storied building

- **Kitchen** with fireplace
- Downstairs room for **receiving guest**
- **Upstairs bedroom**
- Bathroom with drainage system

Craftsmen & trades – single storied buildings

- Elegant Upholstery, carved animal like legs and relief inlay
ANCIENT CHINESE HOUSES

Houses made of baked bricks

Noblemans have coloured glass windows, marble staircase and fireplaces.

**Kang** - a hollow platform heated from underneath

Rugs & cushions for sleeping on Kang

Low tables, carved cabinets, chair, dining table
ANCIENT AZTEC HOUSES

Thatched adobe house

Two single storied

Works of art, statues and decoration

Furniture was not used

Slept on mats and stored food in clay pots
ANCIENT WORLD
Ancient furniture inspiration to the neoclassical furniture of late Georgian era in England and also Regency furniture.
ANCIENT EGYPT

Temples have vast hypostyle halls

Carving and painting on wall

Interiors connected to outdoors through courtyard and loggia

Furniture with curved legs, inlays, decorated

Furniture – Stool, chairs, bed, headrest, tables
44. Sarcophagus of sycamore. 45. Folding chair. 46. Stool of flat strips with a clear tectonic structure. 47. Stool with turned legs and a dedicated fastener. 48. 49. Stand design for Bruskova amphorae. 50. The bed in the form of an animal. 51. Backed chair, express design. Louvre, Paris. 52. Ceremonial throne, rich carving, upholstery. 53. Folding camp bed (on Egyptian figure). 54. Stool with a very low back. 55. Primitive low stool with curved legs (see fig. 6 of Table 1). 56. Parade chair with legs in the form of animal paws padded. 57. Chair with legs in the form of animal paws, the back-filenochnoy Framework design. 58. Support for the head of ebony carved. 59. A portable bed with legs in the form of animal legs and arms. 60. Table with a decorative vase (wall drawing from Thebes, ca. 1200 BC. E.)
ANCIENT EGYPT
ANCIENT GREEK

Greek built important building in stone but used wood for roofing

Pottery decorated with painting

Greek temple – Simple windowless rectangular enclosure surrounded by columns

Greek House – Simple rooms with moulding, strong colours in textile

Cups, dishes and vases for decorative accents

KLISMOS - outward carving legs

Greek KLINES

Tables and chest – coloured decoration
ANCIENT GREEK

KLISMOS
ANCIENT GREEK

KLINES

Greek Bedstead with a Table.
(From an old Wall Painting.)
Roman took over the Greek concept of design with typical engineering skills of their own

Houses planned with courtyard or atrium

Rooms had few or no windows

Technique of **MOSAIC**

Luxurious houses – marble inlay and painting
ANCIENT ROME
The **stool** was the most common type of seating in the Roman period, probably because of its easy portability.

The **sella curulis**, or folding stool, was an important indicator of power in the Roman period.
ANCIENT ROME

While in wealthy households beds were used for sleeping in the bedrooms (lectus cubicularis), and couches for banqueting while reclining were used in the dining rooms (lectus tricliniaris), the less well off might use the same piece of furniture for both functions.
ANCIENT ROME

The Roman **cathedra** was a chair with a back.
ANCIENT ROME

The bench, or **subsellium**, was an elongated stool for two or more users. Benches were considered to be “seats of the humble,” and were used in peasant houses, farms, and bathhouses.
ANCIENT ROME

Candelabra

Relief Inlay
MIDDLE AGES
THE MIDDLE/MEDIEVAL AGES

EARLY CHRISTIAN DESIGN

BYZANTINE

ROMANESQUE

GOTHIC
Early medieval Europe was a place of unrest. Medieval life was uncertain and families were often on move.

Churches and cathedral

Medieval Décor: Textile – Central focus

Medieval Furniture – Made of oak: Chest, cupboards, benches, folding chairs, beds with curtain

Bright fabrics and interesting lighting effect. Use of tapestries and hanging to cover the wall
THE MIDDLE/MEDIEVAL AGES

MOSAIC

INLAY
EARLY CHRISTIAN & BYZANTINE

Churches – significant building

Central space with aisle : clere-storey light

Arches & columns of Roman practice

Art of Mosaic

Glass making techniques – Stained glass

Painting of human and angel forms

Common man – simple furniture, foldable stool and tables

Church – richly carved and solid furnishings
Detail of a medieval window at Troyes Cathedral, France (1300s)
EARLY CHRISTIAN & BYZANTINE
Byzantine monumental Church mosaics are one of the great achievements of medieval art.
ROMANESQUE PERIOD

11 – 12th centuries: remerging after dark ages followed by the fall of Roman Empire

Followed the Roman style

Romanesque Cathedral - massive, solid, dark and gloomy

Sculpture and artwork to decorate church

Church furniture were ornate, decorated with carving and painting - Simple animal and plant forms were used.

Carved chests, simple stool, benches and trestle tables and pillared bedsteads.

Medieval Castles and mansion – lavish

Fun and romantic style
Castle St Ulrich is the best preserved of the Romanesque castles of Alsace.
ROMANESQUE PERIOD

The interior of Oakham Castle
The monastery of Santo Domingo de Silos in Burgos has an upper arcade for access. - CLOISTER
**Tympanum:** a semicircular panel above a portal. This one is carved stone and displays many figures as would a typical tympanum in the Romanesque era.
GOTHIC PERIOD

12 – 16th centuries: Byzantine + Islamic influence

Furniture – ornate, heavily carved and decorated: religious theme: made of oak

Heraldic symbols – griffins, lions or hawks. Floral themes.

Painting and inlays

Many new furnitures: armoire for cloth storage, eating utensils, table coffers, four post bed, linefold carved valence, Gargoyles, curtains, rich tapesteries

Décor items included plenty of candles, stained glass, brass

Gothic motif of pointed arch

Stone wall and panelling
GOTHIC PERIOD

TABLE

GOTHIC BED

ARMOIRE FOR CLOTH STORAGE

GOTHIC MOTIF
GOTHIC PERIOD

CHAIR

CHEST
GOTHIC PERIOD

INTERIORS

GARGOYLES
CLASSICAL STYLE

- Use of classic elements and motifs in different interior elements.

- Classic orders and organization: symmetry, proportion, styles, ...etc.

- Classic colors: tend to use natural / dark colors.

- Use of traditional materials or modern materials in the shape of traditional ones.
RENAISSANCE
12th – 18th century
EARLY RENAISSANCE PERIOD

- **Italy**
  - Frescoed walls, carved ceiling, marble flooring carpets, oil painting
  - Classic detail
  - Symmetrical Planning - central courtyard
  - Painted wall, ceiling decoration and classical molding

- **France**
  - Luxury and refinement
  - Human figures in decorative arts
  - Strap work – geometric patterns
  - Furniture – sculptural
  - Italian inspiration on tables, Armoire

- **Germany**
  - Ornamental theme
  - Classical antiquity, floral motifs, wood cut ceiling, wall paneling, colours seldom used, small elaborate table

- **England**
  - More private rooms - bedroom, closets, parlors
  - Brilliant colours, curved medallions head (Romanye) furniture, Chairs without arms, Lighter version of chair - caquetoire
EARLY RENAISSANCE PERIOD

STRAP WORK

VENETIAN CENTRE TABLE, CARVED AND GILT.
In the South Kensington Museum.
EARLY RENAISSANCE PERIOD

CHIMNEY PIECE.
In the Gallery of Henri II, Chateau of Fontainebleau.
Period: French Renaissance, Early XVI. Century.

CARVED OAK CABINET.
Made at Lyon.
Period: Latter part of XVI. Century.
EARLY RENAISSANCE PERIOD

A SIXTEENTH CENTURY ROOM.
Reproduced from the “Magazine of Art.” (By Permission).
EARLY RENAISSANCE PERIOD
EARLY RENAISSANCE PERIOD

WOODEN COFFER,
With wrought iron mounts and falling flap, on carved stand. Spanish.
(Collection of M. Monbrison.)
Period: XVII. Century.
HIGH RENAISSANCE PERIOD

- More sophisticated understanding of concepts of Roman architecture
- Gradual increase in variety and richness of furniture types – classical details in wall decoration, mouldings on door and window, fireplace mantels and elaborately decorated ceiling.

Painted Ceiling

Fresco - a technique of mural painting executed upon freshly laid lime plaster.
HIGH RENAISSANCE PERIOD

Oak Bedstead of Jeanne d'Albret

Fireplace
The Baroque is a period of artistic style that used exaggerated motion, drama, tension, exuberance, and grandeur.

- Dynamic movement – rich, symmetrical, sculpted form and bold contrasts of colour - dark tonalities
- More complex forms like ellipses, trapezoids and spiral
- Baroque space takes on qualities of mystery and theatricality – effect of richness

- France: Rococco style- more sculptural, volatile manner, motifs based on shell and rock form, foliage
- Italy: the birthplace of baroque- furniture richly carved
- England: Exuberant, Floral marquetries and parquetry, lacquered work on furniture

Parquetry – Applying veneer on surface
BAROQUE PERIOD

In interiors, Baroque movement- monumental staircases that had no parallel in previous architecture.

The other Baroque innovation in worldly interiors was the state apartment, a sequence of increasingly rich interiors that culminated in a presence chamber or throne room or a state bedroom.
BAROQUE PERIOD

Baroque Staircase

Baroque Furniture
**BAROQUE PERIOD**

Stucco or render is a material made of an aggregate, a binder, and water. Stucco is applied wet and hardens to a very dense solid. It is used as decorative coating for walls and ceilings and as a sculptural and artistic material in architecture.

Baroque Stucco work

Baroque Pattern
ROCOCO (LATE BAROQUE) PERIOD

- **Rococo**, also referred to as "Late Baroque", is an 18th-century artistic movement and style in **Paris, France**, which affected several aspects of the arts including painting, sculpture, architecture, interior design, decoration, literature, music and theatre.

- The word 'Rococo' is derived from the **French "rocaille"**, a word used to describe the rock and shell work.

- Furniture – lighthearted, symbol of status, comfort and versatility, easily moved around for gatherings, many specialized forms - fauteuil chair, the voyeuse chair.
ROCCO (LATE BAROQUE) PERIOD

- Rococo art and architecture in such a way was ornate and made strong usage of creamy, pastel-like colours, asymmetrical designs, curves and gold

- Rococo rooms were designed as total works of art with elegant and ornate furniture, small sculptures, ornamental mirrors, and tapestry complementing architecture, reliefs, and wall paintings.
COLONIAL STYLE – UNITED STATES

- Interiors based on English Georgian design
- Furnitures – mixture of medieval & Anglo Flemish renaissance
- STICK variety chairs, BUTTERFLY tables
GREEK REVIVAL STYLE (18\textsuperscript{th}-19\textsuperscript{th})

- Greco-Roman influence
- Temples – churches, public building and private houses
- Interior detail & furniture – Greek vase painting

GOTHIC REVIVAL STYLE

- Followed in England and U.S
- Application in hotels, public building and houses
- Gothic decorative features – pointed arches, tracery and crockets, ornamented ordinary household furniture
**FEDERAL STYLE**

- After independence - America: Federal Government

- Style parallel to Greek revival style

- Chippendale chairs with Marlboro legs

- Later hepplewhite chairs with shield back and Sheraton chairs with Neoclassical influence were made
RENAISSANCE – UNITED STATES

LAMBERT HITCHCOCK STYLE
- Fancy chairs of light weight with caned or rush seats and painted decoration
- Body had plain colour and member were made by machine

SHAKERS STYLE
- Handmade furniture which combined stick construction – no decorative detail
- Strong & Ascetic
INDUSTRIAL ERA
18th – 19th century
"Art Nouveau" is French for "new art"

A very decorative style with many design ideas being taken from nature and using new materials of steel, ceramic and glass.

Hyperbolas and parabolas in windows, arches, and doors are common, and decorative mouldings 'grow' into plant-derived forms.

Art Nouveau designers selected and 'modernised' some of the more abstract elements of Rococo style, such as flame and shell textures.

It was the main form of design that broke the barrier and history of the divide between decorative arts and fine arts.

Wall designs, lamps, furniture and decorative elements.
ART NOUVEAU
**ART & CRAFT MOVEMENT**

- **Arts and Crafts** was an international design movement that flourished between 1860 and 1910, especially in the second half of that period, continuing its influence until the 1930s.

- Arts and Crafts objects were simple in form.

- They tended to emphasize the qualities of the materials used.

- They were influenced by the Gothic Revival (1830–1880) and were interested in medieval styles, using bold forms and strong colors based on medieval designs.
ART & CRAFT MOVEMENT

- They often had patterns inspired by British flora and fauna and used the vernacular, or domestic, traditions of the British countryside.

- It was largely a reaction against the impoverished state of the decorative arts at the time and the conditions in which they were produced.

- Exposed metal fittings
- Furniture in Oak and maple
- Mahogany or walnut wood
- Flooring in parquet or planks in hi-gloss finish
- Accessories – Highly crafted
- Handcrafted lighting fixtures
- Rugs serve as floor accents
- Strong colours on walls
TWENTIETH CENTURY
(MODERNISM)
ECLECTICISM

- Most important building designed in America before WWII were influenced by Beaux-Arts – Eclecticism

- **Eclecticism** is a conceptual approach that does not hold rigidly to a single paradigm instead draws upon multiple theories, styles. – borrowing

- elements include structural features, furniture, decorative motives, distinct historical ornament, traditional cultural motifs or styles from other countries, with the mixture usually chosen based on its suitability to the project and overall aesthetic value.

- emergence of Interior Decoration as a regarded profession

- Sullivan & FLW, Elsie De Wolfe
ECLECTICISM

- Interrelation between various interior elements – walls, ceiling etc
- Natural finish, cream and white colour tones
- Organic architecture
- Furniture an integral part of building
- Stained glass in geometric pattern

F.L Wright studio interior

F.L Wright furniture
THE BAUHAUS

- This style was based on simplicity and the colors tended to be neutral (white, grey etc). Any colors that were used tended to be primary colors such as red and used only in splashes.
- The main materials used were glass, steel and thin layers of concrete.
- Standardization and prefabrication
- Unornamented functional modern interiors
THE BAUHAUS
DE STIJL

- Similar to Bauhaus
- Abstract, rectangular form
- Primary colours – red, blue, and yellow
- Geometrical abstract furniture
MIES VAN DER ROHE

- Style - extreme clarity and simplicity
- Materials - industrial steel and plate glass to define interior spaces.
- A minimal framework of structural order balanced against the implied freedom of free-flowing open space.
- He called his buildings "skin and bones" architecture
- "less is more"

Barcelona chair and table, the Brno chair, and the Tugendhat chair. His furniture is known for fine craftsmanship, a mix of traditional luxurious fabrics like leather combined with modern chrome frames, and a distinct separation of the supporting structure and the supported surfaces, often employing cantilevers to enhance the feeling of lightness created by delicate structural frames.
Farnsworth House by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe
LE CORBUSIER

- Furniture – three categories: chairs, table and open/close shelves
- Works regulated by orderly, mathematical modular system
- Simplicity and cubist geometry
- Colours adventurous
ART DECO

- Art Deco style of interior design is a streamlined, geometric style which often includes furniture pieces with curved fronts, mirrors, clean lines, chrome hardware, and glass.
- In opposition to Art Nouveau style which featured elaborate, flowing natural forms.
Art Deco makes use of angular, balanced geometric shapes. Renowned artists that helped to define Art Deco style include Erte, Adolphe Mouron and Tamara de Lempicka.

Major influence on this style which was a reaction to the societal and industrial advances of the early 20th century. Paris was the hub of Art Deco style. After a 1926 hurricane ravaged Miami, Florida, architects designed whole city blocks in the Art Deco style.
MODERN (INTERNATIONAL STYLE)

- Avoid ornaments.
- Simplicity in design and construction.
- Use of colors.
- Use of modern materials and techniques.
- Free space.
- Complementarily between architecture, arts and industry.
FUTURE STYLES
Beginning in the 1960’s and lasting through today, the post-modern movement took root as a response to modernist design.

Another key theme in post-modern design is borrowing from the past to create eclectic designs in architecture, furnishings, and interiors. Wit and humor are also common elements in post-modern buildings and homes. Post-modernists seek to create comfortable spaces for the body, mind, and soul.
THE POST MODERN

• Notable post-modern designers include Robert Venturi, Michael Graves, Philip Johnson, and Robert A.M. Stern, Judy McKie (furniture designer) and others.

• Different styles such as classic modernism, deconstructivism, etc.
**HI-TECH**

- **High-tech architecture**, also known as **Late Modernism** or **Structural Expressionism**- 1970s,
  - incorporating elements of high-tech industry and technology into building design.
  - Interior design there was a trend of using formerly industrial appliances as household objects, e.g. chemical beakers as vases for flowers. This was because of an aim to use an industrial aesthetic.
- High-tech architecture aimed to give everything an industrial appearance
- Norman Foster, Hopkins Architects, Santiago Calatrava