

DECORATIVE ART

At Juniper Hall

PERIOD	REIGN	CHARACTERISTICS	DECORATION	INFLUENCE
LOUIS XIII 1600 - 1660	Henri IV (1589-1610) Louis XIII (1610-1643) Louis XIV (1643-1715)	Furniture and chairs are rare with ponderous proportions and austere lines.	Geometrical shapes, cherubs head, fruits, upholstered chairs with turned legs.	Wars of Religion caused the nobility to move frequently from castle to castle.
LOUIS XIV 1661 - 1710	Louis XIV (1643-1715)	Imposing, majestic image of the Sun King; birth of rocaille, symmetrical and rigid.	Mask, sun, scallop-shell, beginning of marquetry, Boulle, commodes, consoles, day-beds	Louis XIV established life around the court at Versailles (etiquette), France became the art centre of Europe.
REGENCE 1710 - 1735	Phillipe d'Orleans (1715-1723)	Chair becomes more diversified, adapted more for comfort.	Charm, elegance, refinement, suppleness of line, checks with small flowers, espagnolettes.	Court left Versailles, fashion to have more intimate lives, creation of Hotels particuliers
LOUIS XV 1750-1775	Louis XV (1723-1774)	Curved lines, symmetrical rocaille later becomes asymmetrical	Marquetry, lacquer, vernis Martin, bronzes, porcelain, beginning of secretaires, bergeres.	Taste for natural history, oriental, Chinoiserie, From 1743 the pieces must be stamped.
TRANSITION 1750-1775	Louis XV (1723-1774)	Progressive passage of curved line to straight line.	Finesse of decoration become classic, medallion chair	Discovery of Pompeii, Herculaneum leads towards neo-classical
LOUIS XVI 1775-1790	LOUIS XVI (1774-1792)	Straight, pure lines adapted for current life, the taste for nature, science and history.	Mahogany furniture appears, with fluting, ribbons, beads, ovolo, bows of ribbon, caryatids.	Antiquity in fashion, scientific achievement, pastoral and romantic life
DIRECTOIRE 1790-1799	1st Republic (1792-1799)	Taste inclines towards Greek and Roman	Element of revolutionary origin, simplified decor.	Years of terror, abolition of the guilds, less careful workmanship
CONSULAT 1799-1804	Bonaparte (1799-1804)	Lines become simplified for new clientele of bourgeoisie.	Caryatids, sphinxes return to neo-classicism, originality and details	Military campaign of Bonaparte in Egypt and Italy
EMPIRE 1804-1815	Napoleon (1804-1815)	To serve Imperial Majesty taken from antiquities, solid theatrical effect, no carving, no moulding.	Very architectural with bronzes, eagles, stars, palmettes, bees, swans, square edges.	Napoleon tried to lift quality of craftsmanship, influenced by Percier & Fontaine and David
RESTORATION 1815-1830	Louis XVIII (1815-1824) Charles X (1824-1830)	Resurgence of comfort, not so heavy line, cheap production kills originality and inventiveness.	Dark and light inlaid furniture, disappearance of bronzes, furniture with floral, swans.	Society preferred the life of the intimate salon, birth of furniture "a la cathedral".
LOUIS PHILIPPE 1830-1850	Louis Philippe (1830-1848) 2nd Republic (1848-1852)	Spread of wealth comes with industrialisation. Clumsy and dull furniture	Mixture of all styles, straight lines for commodes with curved moulding and curved for the chairs.	Revival of Regence style with porcelain, bronze, marquetry of low quality, start of the revival of Boulle
NAPOLEON III 1850-1895	Napoleon III (1852-1870)	Increasing social problems and production costs. Lack of creativity or originality combined with a clientele with little taste and a shallow education.	N III style is a total encyclopaedic review of pastiche, a poor comparison with the original furniture from which the inspiration was drawn. Boulle black furniture, enriching, modifying existing furniture to the taste of the period.	Mechanisation in art, horror in emptiness, pilgrimage for Marie Antoinette, years of widowhood (after Victor Hugo). Copy of 18th Century is preferred to the original; lack of culture.
ART NOUVEAU 1900-1925	3rd Republic (1870-1940)	Very small percentage of Art Nouveau furniture, but proliferation of thin simplified machine produce, revival of 18th Century (like Edwardian), inexpressive and banal.	Sinuuous vegetal, animal lines, this style finished after First War with very little influence of the market. The style of N III continued over the period as did that of Henri II, Louis XIV, Louis XV, Louis XVI and Empire.	Collecting 18th Century furniture becomes fashionable in France, thus a lucrative market in reproduction which today is easy to distinguish.
ART DECO 1920-1940	3rd Republic (1870-1940)	Over 70% made in revival of the style of 18th and early 19th Century. Revival began to be simplified and cheaper.	Modern style, no sculpture, no moulding, light, easy to maintain, birth of tube, veneer, painted pine, bronze ornaments, nymphs, roses.	Reaction against precedent and other styles, functionalism, geometric form, Art Deco.