

ARTH 204-601**Neoclassicism to Art Nouveau: Nineteenth-Century
Decorative Arts and Design**

Instructor George H. Marcus
Class hours Wednesday 5:30 to 8:20
Location McNeil Building (MCNB) 169
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Course Description

Design in the nineteenth century meant decoration, and this course traces the emergence of the many decorative styles, both historic revivals and exotic translations, and the many theories of design that came to define the period. Adapting John Steegman's vision of Victorian taste, we will use the following themes to bring order to our study of this seemingly chaotic expression: Design for Intellect's Sake, Design for Commerce's Sake, Design for Morals' Sake, and Design for Art's Sake. Readings and lectures will focus principally on Great Britain, the hotbed of 19th-century design theory and reform, while student reports will explore how these styles and attitudes were elaborated in other countries.

Course Requirements

- 1 Students are responsible for completing the required readings in advance of class. Attendance and preparation (which should include reviewing the study images for each lecture that are on the web) will make the course most meaningful for students.
- 2 There will be two, hour-long quizzes, which will include: (1) identifications from among the study images from each lecture that are posted on the web; (2) discussion of an image in relation to one of the readings; and (3) identification and short discussion of terms, names, and concepts (15% each). No final exam will be given for this course.
- 3 Two short papers are required, one investigating style, based on a visit to the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and a glossary research project (15% each).
- 4 An illustrated class presentation (revised and submitted as a final paper) based on your research of a major expression of nineteenth-century design outside of Great Britain will complete the semester (40%). Goals for the paper will be discussed in class and an instruction sheet with suggested topics will be distributed.

Course Readings

Two texts and a Course Pack of supplemental readings will be used in this course:
Michael Snodin and John Styles. Design & the Decorative Arts: Britain, 1500-1900. London: V&A Publications, 2001. *This is out-of-print in the U.S. but there are many copies available on the web, the most reasonable from ABE Books. The book has also been published as three paperbacks, also with many copies available on the web. If you buy the paperback version, we will be using the second and third volumes, Georgian Britain and Victorian Britain.*

Alf Bøe. From Gothic Revival to Functional Form: A Study in Victorian Theories of Design. New York: Da Capo Press, 1979. *This also is out-of-print but is included in photocopy form in the Course Pack.*

Course Pack *This compilation of excerpts and articles, and the Bøe text, is available at Campus Copy Center, 3907 Walnut Street.*

Additional readings may be assigned during the semester.

Syllabus

The text and supplemental readings are listed in abbreviated form under the class date to which they relate, and the supplemental readings are cited in full at the end of the Syllabus in the sequence in which they are assigned and appear in the Course Pack.

January 16 Introduction
ASSIGNMENT: GLOSSARY PAPER (due April 2)

January 23 Lecture 1: The Battle of the Styles
Readings Schapiro, pp. 287-90; Wornum, pp. II***-V***
In Addition Study the “Understanding Styles” guides at the Victoria & Albert Museum web site beginning with the Neo-Classicism style guide:
http://www.vam.ac.uk/collections/british_galls/styles/index.html
ASSIGNMENT: STYLE PAPER (due February 6)

Design for Intellect’s Sake

January 30 Lecture 2: Regency Design: Authority and Individualism
Readings Snodin and Styles, pp. 157-215, 243-47; Hope, pp. 1-17, 32-38, 40-42; Alison, pp. vii-viii, 14-15, 23-28, 380

Design for Commerce’s Sake

February 6 Lecture 3: Design and Industry
Readings Snodin and Styles, pp. 281-307, 235-42, 341-45, 374-75; Bøe, pp. 7-56; Smith, pp. 1-9; Morrison, pp. 13-21
STYLE PAPER DUE
ASSIGNMENT: RESEARCH PAPER (proposals due February 20, presentations April 16 and April 23, paper due May 7)

February 13 Lecture 4: The Great Exhibition
Readings Snodin and Styles, pp. 309-36, 376-77; Bøe, pp. 57-65; Mayhew, pp. 127-38, 153-62; Wornum, pp. V***-VI***; Redgrave, pp. 2-11
In Addition Study the 1851 Art Journal Illustrated Catalogue at
<http://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/DLDecArts/Browse.html>

February 20 Lecture 5: New Principles of Design
Readings Snodin and Styles, pp. 375-85, 346-48, 431-59; Bøe, pp. 66-84, 134-46; Dickens, pp. 265-70; Jones, in Bøe, pp. 153-58; Dresser, pp. 1-21; Ruskin, “Manufacture,” pp. 54-77
RESEARCH PAPER PROPOSAL DUE

February 27 Part 1: Quiz
Part 2: CWIC Workshop

Design for Morals’ Sake

March 5 Lecture 6: Gothic Reform
Readings Snodin and Styles, pp. 386-88, 336-38, 349-53, 372-73; Bøe, pp. 85-103; Pugin, Apology, pp. 1-11; Ruskin, “Gothic,” pp. 159-68

March 12 NO CLASS (SPRING BREAK)

March 19 Lecture 7: Arts and Crafts Movement
Readings Snodin and Styles, pp. 363-65, 391-95; Bøe, pp.104-27; Morris, "Life," pp. 51-80; Morris, "Arts," pp. 356-74; Crane, pp. 1-21; Ashbee, pp. 5-16

Design for Art's Sake

March 26 Lecture 8: The Aesthetic Movement
Readings Snodin and Styles, pp. 401-29, 357-62, 388-90, 395-99; Bøe, pp 128-34; Hamilton, pp. v-viii, 31-37, 111-23; Pater, pp. 10-12; Wilde, pp. 7-8; Godwin, pp. 192-200

April 2 Lecture 9: Art Nouveau
Readings Snodin and Styles, pp. 366-67; Mackintosh, pp. 220-25; "*L'Art Nouveau*," pp. 209-13
GLOSSARY PAPER DUE

April 9 Part 1: Quiz
Part 2: Discussion: The Tyranny of Taste

April 16 Presentation of Research Topics

April 23 Presentation of Research Topics

May 7 RESEARCH PAPER DUE

Supplemental Readings

Meyer Schapiro. From "Style." In A. L. Kroeber, ed., Anthropology Today: An Encyclopedic Inventory, pp. 287-90. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1953.

Ralph Nicholson Wornum. "The Styles," from "The Exhibition as a Lesson in Taste." In The Art Journal Illustrated Catalogue [of] the Industry of All Nations, pp. II***-V***. London: Virtue, 1851.

Thomas Hope. Household Furniture and Interior Decoration [1807], pp. 1-17, 32-38, 40-42. Reprint. New York: Dover Publications, 1971.

Archibald Alison. Essays on the Nature and Principles of Taste, pp. vii-viii, 14-15, 23-28, 380. Dublin: F. Byrne, J. Moore, Grueber and M'Allister, W. Jones, and R. White, 1790.

Adam Smith. "Of the Division of Labor" [1776]. In Selections from The Wealth of Nations, pp. 1-9. Wheeling, Ill.: Harlan Davidson, 1986.

James Morrison. "Minutes of Evidence before the Select Committee on Arts and Manufactures." From Report from Select Committee on Arts and Manufactures [1835]. In Irish University Press Series of British Parliamentary Papers: Industrial Revolution, Design 1 (1835-1836), pp. 13-21. Shannon: Irish University Press, 1968.

Henry Mayhew. 1851, or, The Adventures of Mr. and Mrs. Sandboys, Their Son and Daughter, Who Came up to London to Enjoy Themselves and to See the Great Exhibition, pp. 127-38, 153-62. New York: Stringer and Townsend, 1851.

Ralph Nicholson Wornum. "The Exhibition." From "The Exhibition as a Lesson in Taste." In The Art Journal Illustrated Catalogue [of] the Industry of All Nations, pp. V***-VI***. London: Virtue, 1851.

Richard Redgrave. Report on Design, pp. 2-11. London: William Clowes and Sons, 1852.

Charles Dickens. "A House Full of Horrors." Household Words, December 4, 1852, pp. 265-70.

Owen Jones. "General Principles." From The Grammar of Ornament [1856]. In Bøe, pp. 153-58.

Christopher Dresser. The Art of Decorative Design [1862], pp. 1-21. Reprint: New York: Garland Publishing, 1977.

John Ruskin. "Modern Manufacture and Design" [1859]. In The Two Paths, pp. 54-77. Philadelphia: University Library Association, 19--?.

Augustus Welby Pugin. An Apology for the Revival of Christian Architecture [1843]. In The True Principles of Pointed or Christian Architecture and An Apology for the Revival of Christian Architecture, pp. 1-10. Reprint. Leominster, England: Gracewing, 2003.

John Ruskin. From "The Nature of Gothic." In The Stones of Venice, vol. 2, pp. 159-68. London: Smith, Elder, and Co., 1853.

William Morris. "The Beauty of Life." [1880]. In The Collected Works of William Morris, vol. 22, pp. 51-80. London: Longmans Green and Co., 1914.

William Morris. "The Arts and Crafts of To-day" [1889]. In The Collected Works of William Morris, vol. 22, pp. 356-74. London: Longmans Green and Co., 1914.

Walter Crane. "Of the Revival of Design and Handicraft" [1893]. In Arts and Crafts Essays by Members of the Arts and Crafts Exhibition Society, pp. 1-21. Reprint. Bristol, England: Thoemmes Press, 1996.

C. R. Ashbee. Craftsmanship in Competitive Industry, pp. 5-16. Campden, England: Essex House Press, 1908.

E. W. Godwin. "My Chambers and What I Did to Them." [1876]. In Is Mr. Ruskin Living Too Long: Selected Writings of E.W. Godwin on Victorian Architecture, Design, and Culture, pp. 192-200. Oxford: White Cockade Publishing, 2005.

Walter Hamilton. The Aesthetic Movement in England [1882], pp. v-viii, 31-37, 111-23. Reprint. New York: AMS Press, 1971.

Walter Pater. From Preface to The Renaissance. [1873]. In Ian Small, ed., The Aesthetes: A Sourcebook, pp. 10-12. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1979.

Oscar Wilde. "The Preface." From Picture of Dorian Gray, pp. 7-8. New York: The Book League of America, 1931.

Charles Rennie Mackintosh. "Seemliness" [1902]. In Pamela Robertson, ed., Charles Rennie Mackintosh: The Architectural Papers, pp. 220-25. Cambridge, Mass.: The MIT Press, 1990.

"*L'Art Nouveau: What It Is and What Is Thought of It, A Symposium-I.*" Magazine of Art (1904), pp. 209-13.