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Furniture: A Concise History (World Of Art)



Synopsis

"Rich in information & sharp in perception." •The Times Educational Supplement In this illuminating history, text and illustrations combine to offer a view of furniture not as a succession of collectors' pieces, but as a statement about the society that created it. Edward Lucie-Smith offers insights into almost every period, from the prehistoric to the postmodern •from Neolithic tables to 1960s conversation pits, and from the ceremonial chairs of Egypt in the thirteenth century BC to the designs of John Makepeace. 190 illustrations, 20 in color

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Lucie-Smith addresses more than just stylistic developments in this book. He makes it easy to understand furniture history as it relates to social and political developments over time. For example, the advent of the printing press had a strong impact on furniture design in the 16th century. Of course! This all makes perfect sense now. Lucie-Smith's book is a great primer for those interested in furniture history.

I bought this book as a short refresher course of my furniture history knowledge learned in college. It did provide that refresher but I found it lacking somewhat. Despite being initially published in 1985, the book largely stops at mid-century modern (mid-50s/60s). Even the mid-century history is scant compared to earlier eras.

The book would be a great and not just good book if sometimes it didn't seem as if it assumes the reader is already familiar with some of the design and furniture jargon. Considering the lack of visuals of some of the described characteristics of the furniture pieces it made it harder to visualize some things. Other than that it was definitely informative and it made me see the value in pieces I hadn't previously considered.

This is a really great book. It is very informative and is great for those who don't know where to start when learning more about the style of furniture throughout the periods. However it only covers western furniture, so those interested in any Asian or African styles of furniture and how it fit into that culture and time are out of luck.

This is a well written and engaging book about the history of furniture from the Egyptian civilization to the present. It is full of examples and great photographs and emphasizes the meaning of furniture within the context of the society and the psychology of the individual.

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