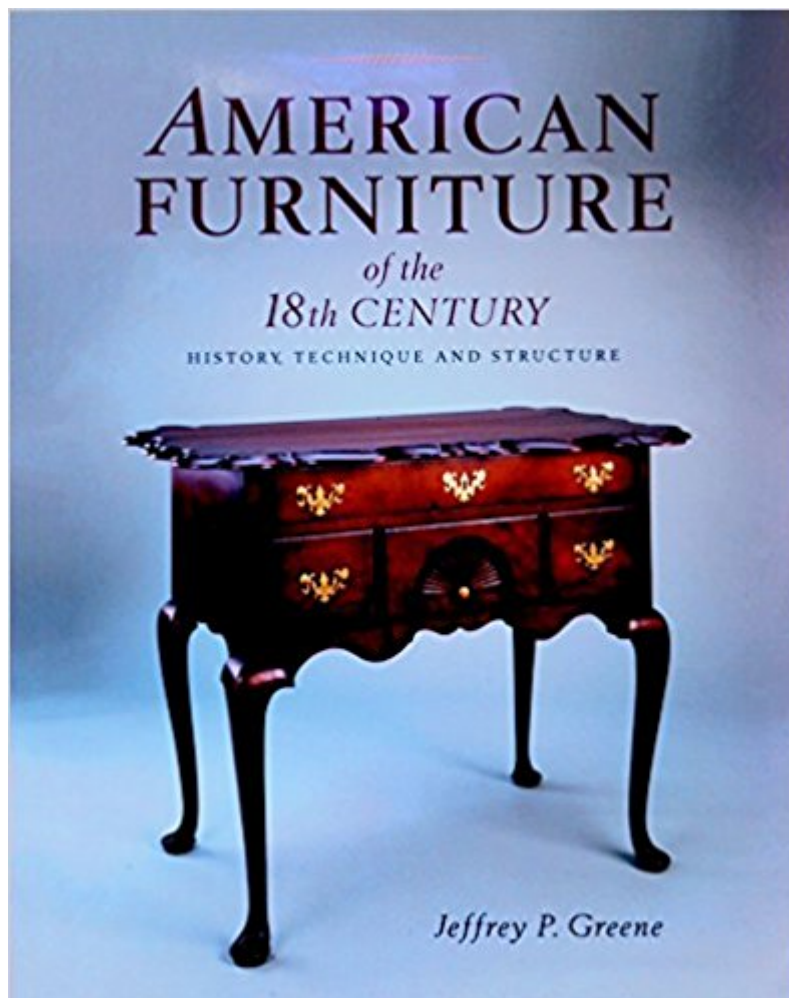




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# American Furniture Of The 18th Century: History, Technique & Structure



## Synopsis

American furniture of the 18th century is prized for its historical and artistic value by museums and collectors, and as a benchmark in design and craftsmanship by modern-day furniture makers. In the first part of the book, Jeffrey Greene chronicles the evolution of the design and construction of 18th-century furniture, drawing on historical influences and the tastes of the period. In the second part, he explains and illustrates the techniques of the period furniture maker, including joinery and authentic construction; carving, turning and inlay; time-honored finishing methods; and making working drawings. The final part examines 24 important original examples in detail for their design, construction and artistic merit. Written by a professional period furniture maker, this book is intended for anyone with an interest in 18th-century furniture. For antiquarians, it will serve as a detailed guide to the furniture maker's methods. For cabinetmakers of any period, it will be an essential reference on connoisseurship and historical methods.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

American Furniture Of The 18th Century bridges the gap between the art of period furniture and the craft of furniture making. Jeffrey Greene's meticulous research of styles, makers and period methods produces a rare combination of history and technique that is bursting with information and insight. Green first provides a comprehensive survey of design and construction based on the historical influences and tastes of the period. He then examines and explains authentic joinery, construction and furniture making methods. Throughout, he provides drawings, illustrations and

photographs. And in a separate, full-color section, he treats readers to a close-up look at 18 important examples with a discussion of their design, construction and artistic merit. *American Furniture Of The 18th Century* captures the spirit of an age that boasted William and Mary, Queen Anne, Chippendale, Hepplewhite, Sheraton, Neoclassical and other enduring makers and styles. It successfully links the history, craft and construction of these classic masterworks in a beautiful volume of elegance and timeless designs. Highly recommended reading for antiquarians, collectors of 18th Century furniture, and students of 18th Century Americana. -- Midwest Book Review

Jeffrey P. Greene is a contributor for Taunton Press titles including *American Furniture of the 18th Century*.

Even if you're not a fan of high-style period furniture (I'm not), this book is a fantastic resource. The discussions of joinery, casework, finishing and other techniques are invaluable to woodworkers who want to use traditional tools and methods. Interestingly, while these furniture styles still don't appeal to me personally, I have a much greater appreciation for them after reading Greene's book. He does a great job of explaining how the broader socioeconomic context of the time influenced furniture design ideals. Once you understand what the maker of, say, a Queen Anne high chest was trying to accomplish, you see the piece in a whole new light.

I am a fan of the William & Mary style and have sought to build a tall chest for some time. Unfortunately, there are virtually no books out there about this beautiful style of furniture. I purchased "American Furniture" just to have another resource on early American furniture and was thrilled to find not only a thorough review of the W&M style but an in-depth look at the tall chest. Mr. Greene provides a history and exploded view of an example that would certainly rate "best" in Sack's "Fine Points". Of course, the whole book is great but it is the only text I have found to go this deep into W&M.

Greene's book does a good job of providing a woodworker (or others interested in period pieces) with solid information on many selected pieces from the era of the title. He does a good job of selecting pieces of good taste, and gives a lot of information on various details with just the right amount of how-to. There is also a lot of historical background info for those who like to know about the history of a piece or style before they build it. The pictures and exploded drawings (showing joinery) are excellent. Though not a comprehensive encyclopedia (it's not intended to be one) it is a

good read from start to finish or a good reference book. Well worth the money.

I love this book. It tells how the styles of early American furniture and design evolved from England and specifically what design details were used in America. It points out what areas certain design features became characteristic of and during what dates. The second half of the book is great information on how the pieces are constructed. It helps one appreciate the remarkable design and skilled craftsmanship from that era.

Excellent book

Bought this book for a friend of mine. He had been wanting the book for a long time but could seem to find it anywhere, Brought a smile to his face.

In the 18th Century, cabinet construction underwent the greatest changes ever seen in the art form. I wanted to understand the constructual differences between Jacobean, William & Mary, Queen Anne, Chippendale and the resultant forms. This book provides clarity and insight into those distinctions. It also gives excellent detail on constructing cabriole legs, including an excellent technique for constructing knee blocks, and in carving the Ball and Claw foot. Whether a cabinetmaker or a historian, this book is for you; doubly so, if you enjoy both endeavors.

This is exactly what I was looking for -- good, clean and clear images of how a piece is constructed. Shows evolution of various joints. I liked the geographical breakdown between the regions.

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