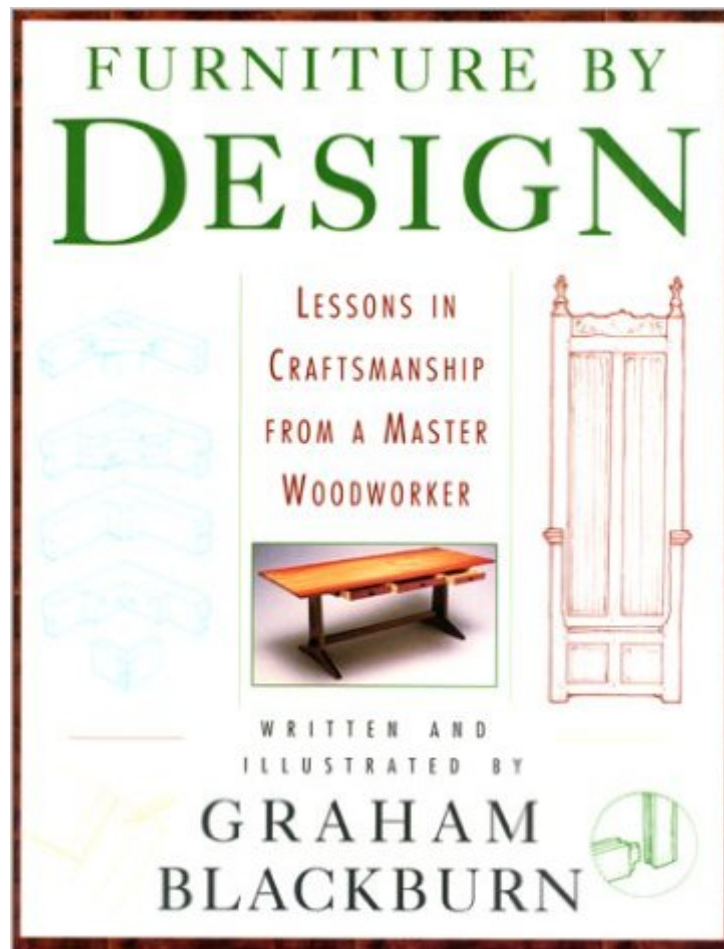


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Furniture By Design: Lessons In Craftsmanship From A Master Woodworker



Synopsis

Furniture By Design is a project book for the woodworker, but one that goes beyond traditional woodworking manuals to teach design concepts through carefully selected, hands-on projects the woodworker builds himself. This book is for the woodworker who is not content merely to build from preset plans; instead, it offers projects that will show how the designs originate and take shape, giving the woodworker the freedom to build anything, with or without plans. The book presents a dozen different pieces of furniture, each illustrated with detailed line drawings and each final product pictured in full color. Every project exemplifies a different lesson in design - making the book a self teaching course in woodworking and furniture design for amateurs and experienced woodworkers alike. (8 3/4 X 11 1/4, 156 pages, color photos, diagrams)

Book Information

Hardcover: 148 pages

Publisher: The Lyons Press; 1st edition (March 1, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1558215123

ISBN-13: 978-1558215122

Product Dimensions: 0.8 x 11.5 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds

Average Customer Review: 3.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (4 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #2,825,665 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #73 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Home Improvement & Design > How-to & Home Improvements > Woodworking > Furniture & Carpentry](#) #469 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Home Improvement & Design > Furniture](#) #3340 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Home Improvement & Design > How-to & Home Improvements > Woodworking > Projects](#)

Customer Reviews

I consider myself an intermediate woodworker and did not find this book very helpful because most of the material is already known to intermediate woodworkers. Several comments. First, there are only eight pages of color photos and they are in the center of the book. The cardinal rule of technical writing is to put the picture with the text. Flipping back and forth is for the birds. Second, the author doesn't consider the disadvantages to his design. The design of anything is a tradeoff between many requirements; the corollary is that there is no perfect design that satisfies all off the requirements. For instance, consider the "dining table". The apron around the fully assembled table

is a dark brown. But when the semi-circle tables on each end are removed, the apron that is revealed is maple. Having two highly contrasting color on the table apron is a big issue which is completely ignored by the author. Also, none of the photos reveal this issue--you really need to read the text carefully to understand what he's doing. Third, the Gothic Armchair is one of the least helpful examples I've ever seen. To start, the chair is built at right angles (there's a reason chair backs angle back--comfort). Then, a reproduction of a chair that was built in the 15th century? Absolutely none of my customers have asked for anything remotely similar to this. Then, there is no analysis of the design. It is simply a how-to article. Fourth, the majority of the book focuses on how to build the furniture as opposed to why the design works. The technical details are fine but I know how to true and square a piece of lumber. Fifth, the author selects furniture from many disparate styles--gothic, contemporary american and Pepsyan. It did not leave me with an understanding of the style.

This book didn't have the design ideas I would have expected from a furniture manufacturer. Also it was difficult to follow and hard to understand.

I have long searched for books on furniture design and style. There are few that exist in this area. This one is good but I'd like to see something more...

Mr. Blackburn shows you that you too can build your own furniture. This is a must have as far as I am concerned!

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