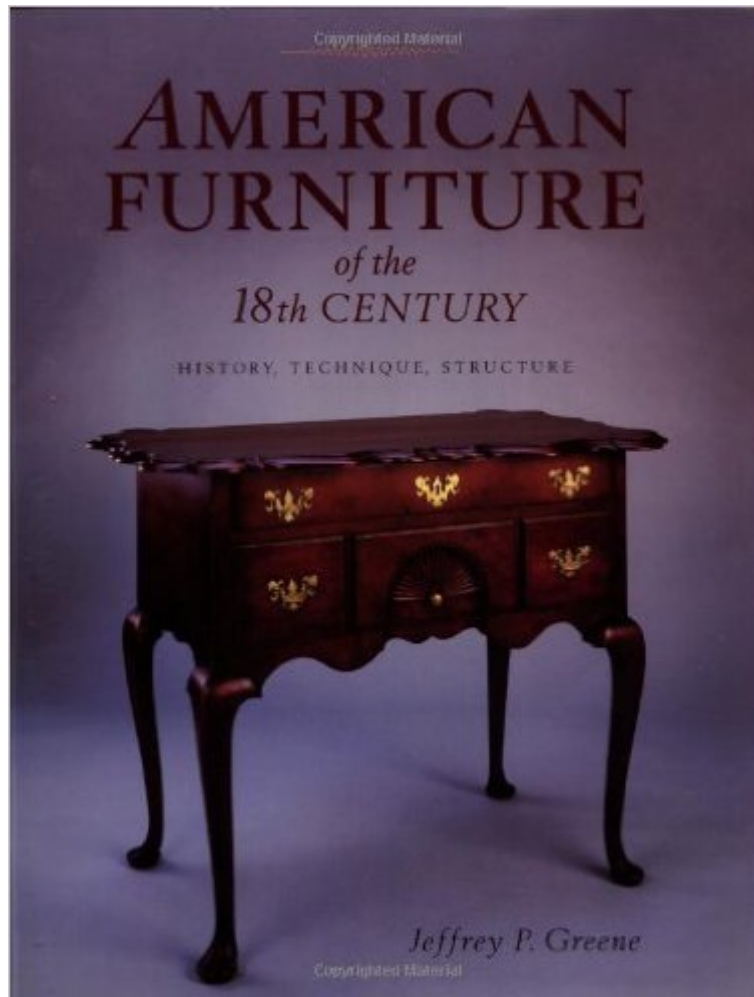


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# American Furniture Of The 18th Century: History, Technique & Structure



## 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: History, Technique, and Structure. Author: Jeffrey P. Greene. 320 pages. 1996. I picked up this book at the library as part of my self-education for being a guide at Waynesborough. In my guides training I learned about individual pieces in each of the rooms and most of that was rudimentary knowledge. This basic training only whetted my appetite for understanding especially as I learned about Robert Adam and his influences. This book was a very pleasant surprise. Though the focus is squarely on American furniture of the 1700's the book

actually begins in 1607 in order to provide basic foundations and developmental context to the furniture of the 18th century. The book finishes up in the 1830's marking the end of the Federal period and hand made pieces, and also the beginning of mass produced furniture made possible by the industrial revolution and the wide dissemination of style books. Each style era within that time frame has a section which highlights significant features and designs. The text is amply re-enforced with photos and drawings. The reader is introduced through the text the changes in technique because of changes in available woods, style books and other influences. I was surprised to learn that these pieces were not finished with sand paper but rather chisels. Sandpaper not making its impact until the middle 1800's. The details concerning wood strength and warping of various woods was something I had not considered. The book has an add on to the title History, Technique, and Structure and aspects are each fully covered. In some sense this book is more than just a history of various styles it is also a practical how to manual.

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