

# THE EXTENDED GUIDE TO INTERIORS STYLES



**T**he notion of aesthetics has no boundaries as it can be added to a number of interior designs. Yet it is important to identify what will look aesthetic. The way one places furniture in one's space depicts a lot about his/her personality. Believe it or not, even the famous artist Leonardo DaVinci admired the study of physiognomy. Hence, while shopping for your ideal piece of furniture, ensure that whatever you buy speaks volumes about your personality. Here are some of the most elemental classifications of interiors and their elementary characteristics:

## AMERICAN ARTS AND CRAFTS

Owing to its strong exposed joinery and scarce ornamentation, it most fundamentally follows straight-lines designs like contemporary architecture. This form of furniture and interiors are carved out of natural materials like wood and brass. Hand-painted scrolls are in much use and appreciated, along with the use of ornamental pieces like Tiffany lamps.

## AMERICAN COLONIAL

This stream-lined geometric trend, seen in

the '20s and '30s, featured furniture with rounded fronts and sleek-line mirrored accents. Glass tops, marquetry and enamelling were popular and bold arches, triangles and parallel lines were common design-elements of the era. Unusual materials like ebony, steel, marble, animal hyde, like those of shark and snake, were used for decorative purposes.

## ART NOVEAU

Originated in France and its territories in the late 19th century, the furniture had ornate flowing lines that were free from linear-shape. This form of furniture mostly drew inspiration from the natural surroundings with emphasis on the feminine form. This quality in-turn gave this style much more aesthetic appeal and proportional advantage over most other forms of furniture and interior decor.

## BAROQUE

The term itself means 'extravagant'. Originated in Italy around the 16th century, this form of décor is very rich and regal, full of royal colour and shades like deep-red, purple and maroon. Significant and elaborate scrolls accompanied with luxurious

fabrics and inlaid wooden flooring-patterns and huge wooden mouldings characterised this form of decor. The basic idea was to have geometrical shapes and convoluted spatial domains that would portray signs of royalty.

## BRITISH COLONIAL

This form of decor is a combination of Victorian elegance and animal motifs of Caribbean. Among the most commonly used woods were those of mahogany, dark walnut and teak wood tree. The wood in the furniture was mostly combined with wicker-cane and leather inserts, which were very popular along with sisal and coir-inserted carpentry. Furthermore, wooden flooring that was angled on the top was much in use at the time. No matter how sophisticated we become, the bitter truth is that we still admire and long for the grandeur and the comfort of by-gone eras. Well, you can still replicate designs from those periods and add aesthetic value to your home.



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