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Building Classic Arts & Crafts Furniture: Shop Drawings For 33 Traditional Charles Limbert Projects



Synopsis

Arts & Crafts style with a surprising twist! Charles Limbert was one of the leading figures in the Arts & Crafts furniture movement, and also one of the most unique. His beautiful pieces combined curves, splayed sides and negative space with the more common straight lines of Arts & Crafts furniture, producing designs that were highly prized. Both the Old Faithful Inn in Yellowstone National Park and the Mission Inn in Riverside, California, feature his work. And today, his original pieces bring thousands of dollars at auction. Now, for the first time, author Michael Crow has carefully detailed 33 of Charles Limbert's finest designs so you can build this beautiful furniture yourself. Inside this book you'll find: 200 drawings with exploded views, elevations and details for projects to fit every room in your house. A bill of materials and explanatory note for each piece. Advice on wood selection, hardware sources and construction and finishing techniques. A historical overview of Limbert's life and work. If you're looking for something fresh in Arts & Crafts design, you'll find it--and more--in the Limbert designs here.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Michael Crow is an amateur woodworker with a special interest in the inspired minimalism of Shaker and Arts and Crafts furniture. He can often be found working on his Craftsman bungalow or building furniture for it. Follow his work at www.1910craftsman.com.

Lambert's designs are more delicate than Stickley's, and I prefer them. This book is well put

together, and I found it very helpful as I designed a contemporary Craftsman-style hall table for a client who wanted a lighter and airier look than more traditional Stickley designs.

Decent drawings and easy to follow plans. However, the dimensions are said to have been extrapolated from known dimensions using catalogs and auction photo's rather than from measuring actual pieces of original furniture. I have been using this method for determining dimensions for years, so this was a disappointment for me, yet, here is still much good info in the book and I would still recommend it to amateur and professional furniture makers alike.

Nice drawings and information.

I love the style of this furniture but most of all I love the simple and clear instructions that make it easy to put together a beautiful final product.

I love the almost exotic appeal of this type of furniture. Simple but modern.

I was really looking forward to this one, based on some reviewers I trust. However, it's just not impressive to me. Nice pieces, but not a single photograph of any of them. The book relies entirely on CAD drawings, and 3d models really don't give you a good idea of what an actual piece of furniture would look like, at least in my opinion. I suppose I can google for real pictures of the designs, but this seems to me to be a bit of cost-cutting that was unnecessary. I'm not sure why I'm so let down; I own many arts and craft books that are simply line drawings. The CAD drawings just seem so low budget and contrived. I doubt I'll look at this one again, let alone think of building something from it unless I should see one of these pieces in person.

This book gives a short overview of the Arts and Crafts movement, and the life of Charles Limbert. It then devotes several pages to various tips and techniques for creating Arts and Crafts furniture. The how-to portion is perfect for someone familiar with woodwork, but unfamiliar with the Arts and Crafts style. It would not be enough for a raw beginner. After this short introductory portion comes the heart of the book, thirty three excellent sets of technical drawings for unusually handsome Arts and Crafts furniture. The bad: This book could have used a second round of editing. The graceful #357 bookcase is described as being 3" wide on its heading page, and in the resources section, they managed to misspell Chris Schwarz's name. So I would vigorously recommend that anyone building

something from this book, review the measurements with great care. I greatly hope that they can fix such errors in the next print run. This book has the potential to become a well-loved classic. The so-so: Although the drawings are lovely, I do love to see actual photographs of the built projects, and the closest this book offers are several photos of originals which are only enough to whet the appetite. If a second edition happens, perhaps reader-submitted photos could be used and published. The good: (and oh, there is a lot of good) Usually Arts and Crafts furniture come in two styles, boxy, and boxier. While still boxy, the Charles Limbert designs in this book have enough curves and lightness thrown in to make them graceful, while still being handsome and stately. They range (in my opinion) from okay, to breathtaking. Which is an improvement over just boxy. The designs range from being approachable for a seasoned beginner, to a satisfying challenge for an intermediate woodworker. Nothing is overly-simple or overtly terrifying. Grain direction is not described, and some joinery is only hinted at, so familiarity with wood movement and assembly techniques is recommended. A minor but refreshing detail, is that in many cut lists, 3/4" is the primary thickness. Half-inches, full-inches and some other thicknesses make appearances, but there aren't cutesy artsy little fractions right and left. This has the delightful effect of allowing off-the-shelf dimensioned wood to be used, placing many of these designs in reach of smaller shops that don't have resawing or planing capacity. And although this is heretical, because of the frequent wide panels, and handsome shapes, some of these designs may lend themselves very nicely to reinterpretation with plywood, biscuits, pine, and paint. But all in all, the technical drawings are just lovely, and the remarkable #355 bookcase has earned itself a place on my very long to-do list.

This is a valuable publication if you enjoy Arts and Crafts furniture, or just want a great guide to building your own piece of stylish furniture. The author has included a wide selection of Limbert's designs. For me, as someone with limited woodworking skills and equipment, I appreciated that there are a number of simple projects, as well as detailed instructions regarding the necessary techniques. These features made me feel confident that I could successfully tackle the particular project I wanted to do. On the other hand, for those who are experienced woodworkers, there are projects included here that will utilize your skills too. Finally, I appreciated the background information on Charles Limbert. Like many, I know a bit about Arts and Crafts furniture, but I knew nothing of Limbert. So the author's biographical sketch added a valuable layer of information that increased my appreciation for this era in American furniture design.

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