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*Alastair Duncan*

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## **Art Nouveau Furniture**

**Alastair Duncan : Art Nouveau Furniture** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Art Nouveau Furniture:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Authoritative resource on period furniture... and also lots of OH PRETTY photosBy Esther SchindlerI have a few dozen books on Arts Crafts era design, ranging from Greene Greene architecture to Morris textiles to Tiffany glass. And my husband, a woodworker, has even more resources related to furniture building, especially for items from that era. But it wasn't until recently that we began to look a little farther afield, to the AC "cousin" of Art Nouveau, and were surprised by how few books there are on the topic. Alastair Duncan's 1982 book was the only one I could find that really dove into it. I'm glad I sprung for the used copy, because it's just what I wanted.The book is organized into three sections: an introduction (the basic "what makes something Art Nouveau" and "how it came about"); Wood, Marquetry, Mounts (a short discussion of the materials used); Designers. The latter section encompasses most of the book, with subsections that detail best-known furniture builders from the School of Nancy, Paris, Belgium, Scotland and England, Spain and Italy, and Germany and Austria. A key designer like Eugene Vallin gets a few pages for his biography, including his best known works (which may not always be furniture), and some sense of his style. For Vallin, for example: "His pieces are recognizable by their monumentality and deeply moulded and fluid contours. He relied on top quality woods and the interplay of light along their curved surfaces for decorative effect, only occasionally incorporating carved figural or floral panels." If you want to be a scholar of the period, you will want to read this cover to cover.Not that I have bothered. I got it for the pictures -- of which there are many. My husband the woodworker is always in the mood for design inspiration, and there's plenty here to inspire me to say, "Oooh, isn't that gorgeous?" This isn't an art book with photos on every page, and probably

two thirds are in black-and-white, but the author clearly knew that you wanted to LOOK at the pieces, so they are photographed to include some details as well as the entire chair or marquetry cabinet or desk or whatever. The range of items is impressive, too. It's not just desks or tables, but small boxes and full bedroom sets. Anything produced in that era by the masters is considered worthy of note. Woodworkers can't expect to get how-it's-made information here.

You can't peer at the joinery to see how the builders put these together. But you won't be disappointed. This is an authoritative resource on the artists, and some AWFULLY pretty pictures of beautiful furniture. 0 of 18 people found the following review helpful. jorge soler, designer By A Customer, I'd love art nouveau furnitur

[publisher: Clarkson Potter, New York] 192 pages including bibliographies index. Illustrated with photos, some in color. A presentation of furniture from the Art Nouveau period by guimard, horta, mackintosh, majorelle and others.. Discussed in detail are the techniques, materials and the great craftsmen as well as gifted designers as Galle, Guimard, Horta, Majorelle, Gaudi and Mackintosh. Text describes marquetry and carving as well as the woods and mounts used. More than 225 illustrations, including 49 in color, of tables, chests, mirrors, cabinets, chairs, desks, and other unusual pieces. Excellent survey book. No collectors values/pricing guide. 192 pages. [Denver, CO, U.S.A.]