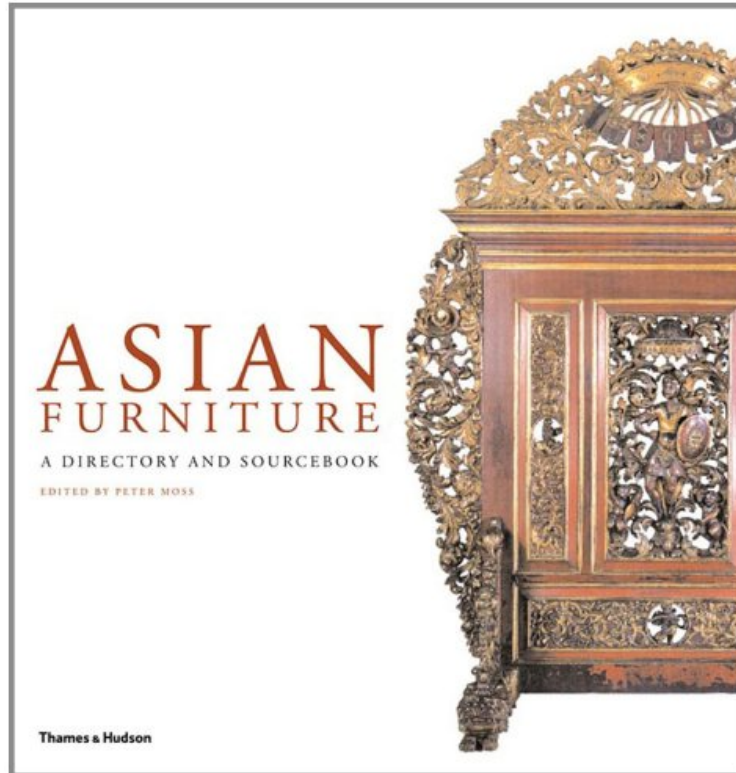


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Asian Furniture: A Directory and Sourcebook

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3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. What an absolute treasure; I am touching the souls of the craftsmen
By S. G. Sherwood
This book is a treasure trove of furniture types, woods and styles to be found typically across every Asian country. The book is laid out in countries from the classics of China and Japan to Philippines and Tibet. There are two amazing chapters on Woods and Tools. What stands this book apart is that it is a glossy picturesque viewpoint of furniture as artwork rather than colonial things that were unnecessary or too expensive or (probably correct) an abuse of natural resources. In some respects, the book leaves gaping holes about the decisions our colonial masters took in their pursuit of native excellence and craftsmanship. Doubtless there was child labour, exploitation of plantations, forced slavery in low-paid jobs. There are no judgements but as such that is what gives the book its charm and accessibility. Quite obviously it is not meant to show how normal Asian families live today and even the well-heeled would be hard-pushed to collect and find most of the pieces listed in their country's section, given the sheer cost, rarity and availability. Its purpose is not to judge, not to contextualise the circumstances these pieces found themselves, but rather to take an historical audit of the furniture in the region and to assess the styles, motifs and vocabulary in each area. I would recommend this book to someone who just wants to lose themselves in the romantic possibilities of Asian antique furniture and to luxuriate in the possible rather than dream about the impossible. It is a book that rewards soul, that nourishes the creative workmanship that these people imbued in their works and that is

ultimately a tribute to the human race, endeavour and how some rich people used to live. It is a directory and sourcebook indeed, but as you leaf through its wide crisp beautifully-illustrated sheets, dwell a little on the people behind these images and the sheer imagination, insight and narrative they wanted us all to see and believe in. Imagine you are one of the people on your carved daybed and what their day might behold. It is a rich insight into the past, peppered with pictures, comments and academic points of interest. It isn't a good book, it is an outstanding book; a piece of scholarship which is addictively readable and a worthwhile non-fiction addition to any library covering the

Arts or the human condition. Bravo Peter Moss! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. ASIAN FURNITURE By Arthur V. Rowe THIS A WONDERFUL BOOK FULL OF EXOTIC FURNITURE NOT OFTEN SEEN ANY WHERE. THE TEXT IS VERY DESCRIPTIVE AND THE PHOTOS AMAZING. THIS A BOOK FOR ANYONE WHO LOVES THE UNUSUAL, 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Photos and a Great Selection By Van This is a great overview of furniture, historic and contemporary, from eight Asian nations. Examples have been carefully selected and the photography is outstanding. No construction details are provided and names given for the wood used are colloquial - "blackwood", "elm". If you make furniture this book will be a source of ideas for years to come.

An attractive overview and peerless reference source on Asian furniture design through the centuries. Western-style furniture was a relatively late arrival in Asia, where climates and lifestyles were markedly different from those in Europe. But colonial incursions and the exigencies of history conspired to bring about profound changes, and furniture design in Asia blossomed into a major decorative art. Each of the eight countries covered here--China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Thailand, Tibet, and the Philippines--developed its own particular designs, as unmistakably distinctive as its flag or anthem. Rather than simply succumbing to practical necessities, Asian designers created pieces of furniture as works of art. Today these diverse pieces are treasured by collectors worldwide, from Manhattan lofts to Parisian apartments, as well as in the countries where they originated. The examples featured in this book were drawn from private collections, antique dealers, and museums around the world, and are organized by country and then by type: chairs, armoires, tables, chests, and more. Each piece has been specially photographed and is described in detail, and the relations between the various periods and styles are explored. The texts have been written by experts from the eight countries represented here.

Gloriously photographed. This genre is at last given its due. - Antiques and the Arts Weekly About the Author Peter Moss is the former Assistant Director in charge of publicity in the Hong Kong Government Information Service, during which time he produced many books on the history, heritage and mapping of Hong Kong. He has published twenty-one books since his retirement in 1993, including books on Asian history, arts, culture and symbolism, as well as five novels.