

Arts & Crafts

1853 - 1907



Wallpaper & window designed by William Morris



The Red House designed by William Morris and Philip Webb, 1860

The Industrial Revolution led to furniture, houses and even artwork being made by machines in factories. Some designers did not like this mechanised, impersonal approach and deliberately went against it, designing and making things using traditional skilled craftsmen and artisans like stonemasons, cabinet makers, potters, weavers and stained glass window makers; unique things made with skill and love. Floral, animal and nature patterns were popular. William Morris (pictured) was probably the most famous of these designers.



Hand-crafted tiles for a wall of a kitchen



Hand sewn woven cushion



Hand crafted chairs; intricate carving & natural patterns

KEY FEATURES:

- Emphasis on NATURE as a starting point for ideas, also influenced by forms of medieval art, particularly the Gothic style.
- Often handmade, hand-crafted items which were labour intensive and expensive
- Wide range of materials (wood, metal, textiles, glass and ceramics)

KEY DESIGNERS:

- William Morris
- Charles Voysey
- Phillip Webb

KEY SOCIAL FACTORS:

- Reaction to industrialisation, disenchanted with the impersonal, mechanised direction of society in the 19th century, they sought to return to a simpler, more fulfilling way of living.
- Aimed to improve the quality of design, use of high quality materials and an emphasis on utility in design.



Hand-crafted vases with floral and natural patterns, celebrating traditional skills