
Professional Certificate in Mid-Century Modern Restoration

History of Mid-Century Modern Design

Mid-Century Modern Design (MCMD) is a design movement that emerged in the mid-20th century, roughly from the 1930s to the 1960s. Its influence can be seen in various fields, including architecture, interior design, graphic design, and product design. The following are some key terms and vocabulary related to the history of mid-century modern design:

1. **Bauhaus**: A German art school that operated from 1919 to 1933. Bauhaus combined crafts and fine arts, and its approach to design emphasized simplicity, functionality, and the use of modern materials. Many mid-century modern designers were influenced by the principles of Bauhaus.
2. **International Style**: An architectural style that emerged in the 1920s and 1930s, characterized by its simplicity, functionality, and use of modern materials such as steel, glass, and concrete. The International Style had a significant influence on mid-century modern architecture.
3. **Minimalism**: A design approach that emphasizes simplicity and the removal of unnecessary elements. Minimalism is a key characteristic of mid-century modern design, with designers seeking to create uncluttered spaces that prioritize function and form.
4. **Scandinavian Design**: A design movement that emerged in the 1930s and 1940s in the Nordic countries. Scandinavian design emphasized simplicity, functionality, and the use of natural materials. It had a significant influence on mid-century modern design, particularly in the United States.
5. **Herman Miller**: An American furniture manufacturer that was a major player in the mid-century modern design movement. Herman Miller collaborated with many prominent mid-century modern designers, including George Nelson, Charles and Ray Eames, and Isamu Noguchi.
6. **Eames Chair**: A classic mid-century modern design created by Charles and Ray Eames in 1956. The Eames Chair is made of molded plywood and leather and is considered a symbol of mid-century modern design.
7. **Googie Architecture**: A futuristic architectural style that emerged in the 1940s and 1950s, characterized by its use of geometric shapes, bright colors, and space-age imagery. Googie architecture is often associated with mid-century modern design.
8. **Atomic Age Design**: A design style that emerged in the 1940s and 1950s, inspired by the atomic age and the space race. Atomic age design is characterized by its use of atomic symbols, futuristic shapes, and bright colors.
9. **Jens Risom**: A Danish-American furniture designer who was a pioneer of mid-century modern design in the United States. Risom's designs emphasized simplicity, functionality, and the use of natural materials.
10. **George Nelson**: An American designer who was a key figure in the mid-century modern design movement. Nelson's designs included furniture, lighting, and graphic design, and he was known for his innovative use of materials.
11. **Eero Saarinen**: A Finnish-American architect and designer who was a major player in the mid-century modern design movement. Saarinen's designs included furniture, buildings, and product design, and he was known for his use of modern materials and organic forms.
12. **Isamu Noguchi**: A Japanese-American sculptor and designer who was a key figure in the mid-century modern design movement. Noguchi's designs included furniture, lighting, and public sculptures, and he was known for his innovative use of materials.
13. **Vitra**: A Swiss furniture manufacturer that has been a major player in the mid-century modern design movement. Vitra has collaborated with many prominent mid-century modern designers, including Charles and Ray Eames, George Nelson, and Verner Panton.
14. **Plywood**: A

type of engineered wood made from thin layers of wood veneer that are glued together. Plywood was a popular material in mid-century modern design due to its strength, flexibility, and affordability. 15.

Fiberglass: A lightweight, durable material made from glass fibers and resin. Fiberglass was a popular material in mid-century modern design due to its ability to be molded into complex shapes. 16. **Teak**: A type of tropical hardwood that was widely used in mid-century modern furniture design. Teak is valued for its durability, strength, and natural resistance to moisture and insects. 17. **Formica**: A brand of laminate material that was popular in mid-century modern design. Formica is made from layers of paper and resin and is known for its durability and ease of cleaning. 18. **Tulip Table**: A classic mid-century modern design created by Eero Saarinen in 1956. The Tulip Table is made of molded fiberglass and has a single pedestal base, giving it a sleek, minimalist look. 19. **Noguchi Table**: A classic mid-century modern design created by Isamu Noguchi in 1947. The Noguchi Table is made of solid wood and features a sculptural, freeform base that supports a glass top. 20. **Panton Chair**: A classic mid-century modern design created by Verner Panton in 1960. The Panton Chair is made of molded fiberglass and has a cantilevered, S-shaped design that gives it a futuristic look.

Challenge:

* Identify a mid-century modern design piece and research its designer and history. * Create a mood board or design board inspired by mid-century modern design. * Experiment with mid-century modern design principles in your own home or workspace.

Example:

* A classic mid-century modern design piece is the Eames Lounge Chair and Ottoman, designed by Charles and Ray Eames in 1956. The chair is made of molded plywood and leather and is known for its comfort and durability. It was inspired by the traditional English club chair and was designed to be a comfortable place to read, work, or relax.

Practical application:

* Mid-century modern design principles can be applied to a variety of spaces, including homes, offices, and public spaces. To apply mid-century modern design principles in your own home or workspace, start by decluttering and simplifying your space. Use natural materials, such as wood and leather, and prioritize functionality and simplicity in your design choices. Consider incorporating mid-century modern design pieces, such as the Eames Lounge Chair and Ottoman or the Tulip Table, into your space.