Suggestions for Decorating a Colonial Home
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Suggestions for Decorating
A Colonial Home

Living with Colonial . . .

For most of us these days, the term "Colonial" brings much more to mind than an historical era, that remarkable span of years, 1600-1775, during which our country was settled. Applied to furniture, "Colonial" has come to connote a way of life completedly American, at ease in town or country, apartment or remodeled farmhouse, Maine or California; in keeping both with the fine traditions which surround those pre-Revolutionary times and the modern trend toward simple, relaxed living.

Like the courageous, intensely practical Pilgrims — and for reasons surprisingly similar — today’s homemaker wants furnishings that require a minimum of care and attention. An Early American decorative theme is the logical, attractive answer, because everything about it, from the furniture right down to the last appealing accessory, spells an economy of time and effort. And yet, a home decorated in Colonial style yields up an even richer reward than this: for the flavor of a colorful past reaches out to welcome family and guests alike into a friendly warm atmosphere.

Cushman Colonial Creations are influenced directly by the American Colonial Period. The furniture in use then was as strongly individual as the minds and natures of the Pilgrims who lived with it. There was no time for the elaborate carving found in English furniture, but the proportions of those early pieces were so intrinsically good that their effect is still noticeable in current designs. Plain, undecorated — yet however crude, never clumsy — the first American furniture surely reflected the directness of its makers. It is little wonder that even today this furniture holds such appeal for any American interested in the historical past.

约翰·艾登，他为米尔斯·斯坦尼斯的求婚，是重要的，对他的同乡工人，和我们，对另一个，也许更为世俗的原因。他是少数几个学习家具制作的人，可以将各种，出了不熟悉的新世界的木，一桌安上伸缩腿；而甚至做出樱桃，枫木，桦木或松木的模仿，这可能在英国，已经左后了。这是一种能力，赢得了奥登的热烈的感激。

克舍曼，在适应这种类型的家具卖到今天的需求，已经采取各种自由，为了增加强度，舒适和便利。只要我们不希望我们的房屋现在精确的复制，如在1600年代，我们必须在家具反映的不可避免差异带来由于各个时代的改进。例如，昂贵的制造了的木压火炉火地，使木头正确。而现代，高效的工厂可以切割出更准确的准确地由机械而不是手工。

容易地，一个最满意的因素，记住在购买早期的美国家具，它的内在永恒。不仅临时的，好适应的古董是不很于去的风格，如我们美国人，让带着留恋的目光回望殖民时期。当然，我们可以采取一个自豪的接受什么才是最好，过去和结合它完整的便利到我们目前，确信在它，作为克舍曼殖民创造，已经常常描述的，‘传家宝明天’…家具，将被使用和享受了很多，很多年以后的购买，一个很好的投资，对任何家庭。
Let’s Decorate Your Home

The furniture you choose for your home is an expression of your own taste and deserves the right background to bring out all its beauty and detail. With Early American, the “decorator’s touch” is comparatively easy to achieve. For instance, you might try any of the following ideas:

Painted walls. Perhaps a dull gray, or antique ivory. Then make a big splash of color with gay chintz draperies; hooked or braided rugs—and bright little pillows. Or, if you prefer, pick out a harmonizing color from your draperies and match it to your walls.

If you like the hominess of wallpaper, be sure to use small patterns, reminiscent of the old stencil designs.

Show off with shelves. Your copper and pewter accessories will be flattered by their own special shelf with a perky chintz skirt! The same treatment is wonderful in the kitchen—handy spot for cookbooks. And, if you take pride in a Terry or Cathedral clock, place it on a small shelf between two dining or living room windows.

Recessed shelves—anywhere in the house are space-savers, and better still, call attention to your favorite china figures; nice, too, for unusual flower arrangements. In the upstairs hall fill such shelves with books, within easy reach of those who can’t sleep.

At the bottom of it all . . . your floors. Be sure they make the most of your rooms. Happily, the days are gone when rugs need to be the cause of hard labor and expensive cleaning.

Use the new washable rugs. Their colors go well with maple and you can even get washable braided rugs today, to give the Early American look for which you’re striving.

If you like carpeting, you can still have the effect of hooked or braided rugs by using them scattered— before the fireplace, in the entrance hall, or as shown in the photograph, in a bedroom.

To those who hook—here’s a wonderful way to treat your stairs; make hooked squares and place them on the step only. Easy to care for . . . a delight to the eye of the beholder!

Color at your feet . . . with spattered floors. A popular method with decorators, this is the method for adding a new color to a room, or for blending several colors into a harmonious whole. Usually done on a black, or dark, floor—but try it on gray! And be sure to spatter white generously, along with whatever other colors you wish.

Painted floors. Try block designs, in black and white. Or strips, perhaps navy blue, then white . . . for a dramatic look.
**Make your home blossom...** with flowers not just a holiday treat but an everyday affair, grace note to pleasant living. Put them in unexpected places where your family and guests will come upon them with surprised delight. Here are a few suggestions:

*Floating flowers* give a luxury look to your simplest coffee table. In a low, round, milk glass bowl, float pond lilies...or fleur d’amour...and, when you want elegance, try gardenias.

*In your guest room*...roses, combined with dainty blue Statice (in a vase slightly flared), will long be remembered after the visit is over.

*An old-fashioned "nosegay"* in the hall, clipped to the stiff, white organza curtain, will add a world of charm to your hospitality. Take a crisp florist’s doily and make your own: start in the center with one sweetheart rose, then use rings of sweet peas, first white, then lavender, and white again.

*In the spring*—deck out your dining table with a real “country” centerpiece of silver pussy willows, rising majestically in the center, lording it over a border of colorful, odd-shaped gourds. *In the fall*, use three large yellow mums with a border of small, dark brown pompoms.

*On your Dutch cupboard* put ornamental plants—Philodendron, wandering jew. Stake them from left to right, the lightest shade always at the top.

**Maybe you can't** have Aladdin’s Lamp for your own, but with a little ingenuity and a lot of imagination, you can work magic in lighting up your home.

Try for lamps that look as interesting, as much a part of your decorative scheme in the middle of the day, as when they glow softly at night. This is particularly simple with Early American, because there’s such a wealth of material upon which to draw.

Use old bottles, coffee grinders, pine boxes, tinware, pewter for distinctive lamp bases. They become yours exclusively and truly bring the unusual character you seek for your rooms.

Milk glass and hobnail crystal are dainty for bedrooms.

Bright note for a dull corner: polished brass reproductions.

Wherever you can, for instance in wall sconces, use golden yellow bulbs. They shed a mellow light that really brings out the glow in your maple furniture.

Remember, however, that lamps often must serve a utilitarian function as well. So give a thought to placement and candle power, too!
W indows can be the beauty spot of your room. Too often, they are regarded as merely utilitarian, an added cleaning chore. But with the following suggestions, all planned for the least possible care, most possible appeal, you'll see your windows in a new light!

Where protection is not necessary, run a perky ruffle clear round the window, making it look like a picture frame. This is good over a window seat, in the hall, or in a room inclined to be dark, for the sun can stream in without interference.

A Chippendale frame built around the dining room windows will take the place of draperies. Paste, or paint, a stencil design of ivy on the frame, as in our photograph. Then use real ivy for accent... or, have your conventional window frames stained pine color; then set printed cotton drapery within the frame, not to go below the window sill.

Dye some sheets and make double draperies. You won't need shades when you pull the draperies together, either top or bottom. In a bedroom you can make "Indian shutters" of organdy.

For maple furniture the plaids, gingham, and unbleached cottons are the best materials, for they bring a fresh, friendly quality into the room. Where you have patterned wallpaper, use plain draperies; with painted walls, the gay designed fabrics.

What goes with Colonial? Well, if you're one of the many people who like both the old and the new, don't be disturbed about it. You'll find you have lots of company for even leading decorators mix periods—the very latest drapery material with the most traditional of furniture. So, we say, give in to your own tastes and have what you want.

To prove the point, glance at the interior shown on this page. See what a handsome background a lodge-like room with its great fieldstone fireplace makes for Cushman Colonial Creations. The paneled walls, the softly tinted ceiling, blend beautifully with the furnishings. Notice how the antique plates are perfectly at home in the same room with a modern pottery lamp and its bright plaid shade.

To get a contemporary feel with Cushman is simple, because it's so adaptable!
Color can be a motivating force in your life, if only you let it in. Now we know that certain colors, even shades of colors, can have a depressing effect on morale, while with other colors, you’re bound to be cheerful!

So find your colors — use them generously in your home to express your own personality. Watch your friends and family respond to the background that best flatters you.

Colors that go with modern are right at home with Colonial, so there’s no need to stint. The very new, very earthy terra cottas, smart grays, chartreuse, are every bit as good as old Dutch blue, tile red, antique white.

Dark colors, for city homes, are, of course, wonderful worksavers — and notice how well dark brown, or dark green sets off maple, makes it even richer.

From a family portrait, take a color and use it as a theme for the entire room. The portrait gains in importance, the room is greatly enriched. The same may be done with any favorite picture or print.

If your china happens to be floral, pick a posy from its pattern and repeat the deepest colors throughout your dining room. Wallpaper, draperies — even your table linen — can all come into this pretty picture, and your dining room will reward you with its truly “professional” look.

How to Know Good Furniture

It’s “planned economy” for a young couple starting out, or an older couple doing over, to know good furniture before they buy one single piece. Mistakes can necessitate expensive repairs, or even replacements, within a few years... and these days few budgets are scaled to include a major furniture change this frequently.

When properly bought, furniture can be a lifetime investment, and its purchase should be given great care and thought. Few people know the rudiments of furniture making and are, generally speaking, at the mercy of their salesman. While in some cases this may turn out fortunately, it doesn’t always, for the salesman can very easily misinterpret your particular needs and desires, and suggest something entirely wrong for you.

Once the lines, the basic design, the finish and the overall “atmosphere” of a piece, or suite, has been approved, there are some details of construction which can easily be checked by the wise buyer — and the best time to check these details is before you buy! So don’t be hesitant about finding out what you want to know; you’ll be glad afterwards that you were cautious.

Design. First of all — besides the good looks of the piece, does the design appear functional? In other words, will it be both useful and beautiful? And will it be in style ten years from today? Here’s where Early American is such a happy choice; for you know, when buying from a reputable manufacturer like Cushman, that your furniture has been very carefully adapted from the antique, and that it is not a temporary fashion, but one here to stay. This knowledge is bound to add immeasurably to the enjoyment of your Cushman furniture. And what’s more, your pleasure will increase as you realize over the years that you are living with furniture beautifully correct in style; superbly constructed to withstand daily use; designed to go with modern, yet maintain all its character, or to fit in appropriately with antiques.
**Finish.** Good furniture should have a soft, warm finish, one in which you seem able to look into the depth of the wood. Avoid brittle, metallic or mirror-like surfaces, because they mar easily and often conceal inferior woods. Inspect each piece in which you are interested to see if all parts are smooth and well finished. Glance at the undersides of tables, drawer bottoms and insides. If they are properly stained, it is safe to assume that the furniture is well built throughout.

**Decorations.** Check the hardware for quality. Look carefully at carvings: they should be cut into the wood itself, and not pressed out, or appliqued. Where possible, all joinings should be done without screws or metal braces.

**Construction.** Each piece of furniture calls for its own particular examination. For example, in chests of drawers, are the drawers dovetailed properly? If they are put together with butt joints, this is an indication of cheap construction. The best furniture is constructed by mortise-and-tenon, dovetailing, doveling. Ask about this. Look carefully at drawer bottoms. Are they rough and splintery, or smooth, as they should be? Be sure they slide easily. A good rule to go by is: look where you are not expected to for signs of carelessness or short cuts in manufacture.

**Wood.** Of particular importance is the wood from which furniture is made. It must be properly cared. If it is not thus treated, the furniture will expand or contract whenever the weather is humid or dry. Kiln drying, plus efficient workmanship, are absolute essentials in this department. Your best guarantee here is the reputation of your manufacturer.

**Now . . .** after you’ve thoroughly examined the furniture you intend to buy, go one step further in your thinking. Look ahead a few years. Are you sure you’ve chosen style, construction and finish you’ll want to live with indefinitely? When you’ve satisfied yourself on all these vitally important points, then you can buy with a confidence that will be repaid many times over.

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**How to Keep Furniture Looking Like New**

**Naturally,** you want to keep your proud new furniture looking well-cared for, always. When you have chosen Cushman Colonial, you know that this will not be difficult. But accidents do happen in any home, and so we list for you a few helpful suggestions.

**Daily Care.** It is not necessary, as some people erroneously think, to polish maple-finish furniture every week, or every month. The simplest care is the best care! To clean your Cushman Colonial, take a damp cloth, previously soaked in a weak solution of soap-suds, and wipe off. Then, with a dry cloth, rub vigorously, as you would polish. That’s all there is to keeping up the daily good looks you want in your furniture.

**Light Blemishes.** For pin scratches, scuff marks and the like, where the abrasion does not go clear through the finish, first try polishing out with furniture wax. In case the injury does not disappear with this treatment, try rubbing the surface vigorously with boiled linseed oil. This will darken the scratch and may conceal the blemish. If the defect still shows after this, retouch it with stain, dye, or color.

**Table Top Cracks.** Use “stick shellac,” which can be heated with a screwdriver point just sufficiently to melt the shellac. Hold the stick over the defect and melt the shellac into it with the hot iron. Dampen one of your fingers and pack the soft, pliable shellac into the cavity, until it has slightly overfilled the depression. When cool, the shellac will have become thoroughly hard, but may be pared off the surface with a knife held flat. Apply wax finish.

**Reviving Furniture.** When your furniture begins to show a dull haze and you want to restore it to its original lustre, here’s the way to proceed. Buy any good paste wax. Read the given directions carefully. Remember to rub each piece with much the same motion you would use in polishing your shoes. It’s as uncomplicated as that!
WHERE
CUSHMAN
Colonial
CREATIONS
ARE MADE

The home of Cushman Colonial Creations is located in the heart of Colonial country: southern Vermont, whose history of pre-Revolutionary colonization and bloody struggles with Indians, French, and British, is so exciting.

When you come to admire the beautifully decorated interiors of The Old Stone House, as thousands do every year, we urge you to visit the many points of interest, some of which are pictured here. They have had great influence on the quality and character of Cushman Colonial Creations.
It's the little things that count, that go to make up a home cherished by family and friends... like a bookcase desk placed handily by the telephone, or a shelf table for the daily newspapers and current magazines.

Occasional pieces like these are important to the decorative theme of any room and should never be chosen haphazardly; their selection should be given the same attention you pay to the purchase of all your furniture.

For gracious dining... this group, inspired by old Pennsylvania pieces, will make any meal memorable.
The Council Room Group

A strong Swedish influence is reflected in this attractive suite. The original pieces date back to the late Seventeenth Century.

The Shaftsbury Living Room Group

The motive for this group was found in nearby Shaftsbury, where some of the Green Mountain Boys lived. Notice the fine lines, the solid comfort you can almost feel when you look at these pieces.
The Double Rudder Table Group

adapted from The Catamount Tavern Collection. The Green Mountain Boys whispered many a revolutionary plan from the comfort of such chairs and settles.

No. 3-179 Corner Cupboard
Width 25" Depth 14" Height 66" (Shelf inside Cabinet) Wall sides 19"

No. 5-38 Mirror
Glass 20" x 40"

No. 5-174 Marlboro China
Size 39" x 18" Height overall 65"

No. 4-24A Malden
Arm Chair
Seat 16" x 19" Height of seat 18"

No. 5-175 Marlboro Buffet
Top 52" x 19" Height 35"
No. 5-175T Marlboro Hutch
Same as above with Hutch top Height 68"

No. 4-43 Double Rudder Table
Closed 54" x 26" Open 54" x 48" Height 29"

No. 4-24 Malden Chair
Seat 16" x 15" Height of seat 18"

The Molly Stark Bedroom Group

Room for repose . . . with the restful atmosphere of a set which gives the appearance of prized originals.

The "Molly Stark" is built like all Cushman furniture, to stand the strain of everyday use; it is a masterful blend of the historic past and the practical present. While a great deal of the charm of this suite lies in its Colonial design, the Cushman Mfg. Company has been closely guided also by the exacting standards of today's comfort.
The Extension Table was adapted from one found in Hartford, Connecticut; the buffet from some of the rarer, most sought-after antiques of old New England.

Here is perfect balance, combined with Cushman’s sturdiness of construction.
The Peter Schuyler Bedroom Group

For those who like a Dutch motive, a bedroom furnished with this suite will always be in excellent taste.

Notice the completeness of this fine set: the dresser and chests with their capacious drawer space, so necessary in most bedrooms; the wonderfully useful night stand with both an undershelf and a drawer; the attractive vanity and its matching bench.

No. 4-151 5-Drawer Vanity
Size 44" x 18" Height 28"

No. 5-62 Night Stand
Size 16" x 12" Height 28"

No. 4-135 Vanity Bench
Size 21" x 12"
Height of seat 18"

No. 4-153 Bed
Height of Head 36"
Height of Foot 28"
Length 6' 4"
No. 4-153S—Single—Width 3' 3"
No. 4-153D—Double—Width 4' 6"

No. 4-168 5-Drawer Chest
Size 34" x 20"
Height 45"

No. 4-166 5-Drawer Chest-on-Chest
Base 35" x 21" Top 34" x 20"
Height 56"

No. 4-136 Mirror
Gloss 28" x 20"

No. 4-169 4-Drawer Dresser
Size 42" x 20"
Height 36"
The John Norton Bedroom Group

No. 6139 Night Table
Top 16" x 14"
Height 29"

No. 6130 Bed
Height of Head 42"
Height of Foot 35"
Length 6' 4"
No. 6130S—Single—Width 3' 3"
No. 6130D—Double—Width 4' 6"

CAPTAIN JOHN NORTON, founder of the Bennington Pottery, brought several articles of furniture with him from Goshen, Connecticut to Bennington, about 1790. This suite is patterned after the originals.

No. 6133
Chest-on-Chest
Base 37" x 20"
Top 36" x 19"
Height 58"
8 Drawers

No. 6132 Vanity Bench
Size 20" x 14"
Height 18"

No. 6137 Mirror
Glass size 28" x 20"

No. 6136 Mirror
Glass size 18" x 14"

No. 6135 5-Drawer Chest
Top 34" x 20"
Height 45"

No. 6134 Dresser
Top 42" x 20"
Height 36"

No. 6141 Vanity
Top 46" x 20"
Height 30
9 Drawers
Cricket on the Hearth

12" x 9" x 6"

$3.95
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Add 25c West
of Mississippi
Includes 25c Booklet

A hand-pegged “cricket,” authentic reproduction of the stools used by our Colonial forefathers — good cheer for your hearth... good cheer for your purse, too, at the special offer of only $3.95 (value $6.25).
To see the satiny Cushman finish, the superior craftsmanship found in all Cushman pieces, send for your cricket today.
Notice the famous “Cushman” name stamped right into the wood under the top — and remember always to look for this assurance that you are obtaining genuine Cushman Colonial Creations, the furniture you want for your home.

H. T. CUSHMAN MANUFACTURING CO.
Box 501, North Bennington, Vermont

☐ Please send me the name and address of my nearest Cushman dealer.

☐ Please send me ___ Cushman Colonial Footstool(s) @$3.95 each. (Just slip this card in an envelope with your check or money order. No C.O.D. orders accepted.) Add 25c West of Mississippi.

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is 306 feet high, the tallest monument in the world when built, has 412 treads and 34 landings in the staircase. The statue of Col. Seth Warner, one of the leaders in the engagement, stands in the foreground of the Monument.

Additional copies of this booklet alone may be obtained by sending 25c to
H. T. CUSHMAN MANUFACTURING COMPANY
SINCE 1884
Box 501, North Bennington, Vermont
Cushman *Colonial Creations* are made in the shadow of the famous Bennington Battle Monument which commemorates the victory over the British at the Battle of Bennington, August 16, 1777, the turning point of the American Revolution. The Monument, illustrated on the back cover, is 306 feet high, the tallest monument in the world when built, has 412 treads and 34 landings in the staircase. The statue of Col. Seth Warner, one of the leaders in the engagement, stands in the foreground of the Monument.