

Chinese Furniture

Unique in style, Chinese furniture has long been celebrated for its elegant, artistic lines and strong, durable structure. Ranging from pieces designed simply to display the beauty and texture of natural woods, to magnificent pieces decorated with lavish carvings, lacquer, or precious metals and stones, Chinese furniture is an outstanding representative of the oriental arts. This book provides an accessible, illustrated introduction to the history, production techniques, and rich variety of Chinese furniture, revealing the important part that this furniture has played in the development of China's culture.

Introductions to Chinese Culture

The thirty volumes in the Introductions to Chinese Culture series provide accessible overviews of particular aspects of Chinese culture written by a noted expert in the field concerned. The topics covered range from architecture to archaeology, from mythology and music to martial arts. Each volume is lavishly illustrated in full color and will appeal to students requiring an introductory survey of the subject, as well as to more general readers.

Zhang Xiaoming

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Preface

Step into the magnificent Imperial Palace in Beijing and feast your eyes on the throne and screen with dragon and phoenix designs. Walk into the Qiao Family Grand Courtyard in Shanxi and caress the rough, simple tables and chairs. Wander around Wu Town, a small town along the lower reaches of the Yangtze River in Zhejiang, and marvel at their king-size antique beds with intricately carved patterns. In all these places you might wonder how this furniture was created. You might also wonder at the lives and experiences of the owners of these pieces.

Chinese furniture reflects many of the country's historical and cultural accomplishments, and has evolved in response to changes in lifestyle and the development of new technologies and skills. It is no longer a simple necessity or an expression of craftsmanship. Today, furniture is evidence of China's development and a symbol of its culture. Its masterpieces demonstrate a distinctive oriental style.

