

# Behind the Design

## It's here: Modern classic!

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Something new is happening in the design world! It's a hot style direction that is distinct and has mass appeal. It defies typecasting, but we can identify the influence of Art Deco and Mid-Century Modern, while the look sometimes reaches even further back to Louis XV and Neoclassical design.

This new style is something we can call Modern Classic.

We were first re-exposed to Mid-Century Modern by Pottery Barn and HGTV home makeovers. This style origi-

nally emerged after World War II with the availability of new materials and mass production.

In the past three years, a new finesse has been applied and this fresh look is rapidly becoming one of the most often requested by baby boomers, Gen Xers and Gen Yers alike.

Everyone can relate when the line between traditional and contemporary is blurred. It's a warm take on modern with a touch of French '40s class.

The "transitional" label of the past does not do this style justice. With influences from earlier periods as well as the modern era, it can visually blend with traditional and contemporary interiors without compromising either.

What remains is a dignified simplicity that can be dressed up or down with fabrics to suit the mood and budget. Modern Classic can update a room instantly.

One notable furniture designer that's helped define this style is Larry Laslo. He



The Knowledge Collection by Kindel was inspired by the classics but is described as "now" by lead designer Paula Scott. The dining table (71-018) is influenced by French Regency looks, while the side chairs (71-082) and arm chairs (71-149) blend the Neoclassical saber leg with an Art Deco-influenced back.



Barbara Barry's signature Grace Lounge Chair (BB013-03) for Henredon was one of the first pieces to epitomize the Modern Classic direction. Introduced in 2005, it's a defining silhouette for this style.

explains: "There is no present without the past. I love taking from the past to create a modern day classic by giving it a twist. My design becomes my own personal vocabulary, probably by the quirky juxtapositions that I create, which look absolutely right in today's contemporary moment."

You can try your hand at identifying the Modern Classic style this week in several High Point showrooms. For starters, don't miss Laslo's collection at Ferguson Copeland. Then you might check out Calia Italia for leather sofas, Christopher Guy's upholstery and case pieces, and Hickory Chair for the Thomas O'Brien Collection.

### Hallmarks of Modern Classic

- ▶ Clean lines
- ▶ Sculptured silhouettes
- ▶ Solid fabrics in silk or subtle texture
- ▶ Self piping details
- ▶ Wood-trimmed upholstery
- ▶ Deep, luxurious finishes
- ▶ Materials with sheen
- ▶ Sleek legs



Larry Laslo defines the Modern Classic style with his French Deco sofa (Z-674-3) for Ferguson Copeland. Reminiscent of the Parisian salon, it demonstrates the luxurious good taste of the period.

You can talk to Susan by clicking on Behind the Design on the [www.furnituretoday.com](http://www.furnituretoday.com) home page, or at <http://www.furnituretodayonline.com/BehindTheDesign/>.



Classic style goes modern in this acrylic table (2000-09AC) by McLaughlin Collection. The natural terrazzo top is accented with a custom stencil pattern that's laser-cut into the stainless steel overlay.



Even classic French passementerie becomes chic and modern when the shape is stylized, as in this bobble fringe and tassel from the Beaugency Collection at Houles.