# Mid-Century Modern Visionary Furniture: Design from Vienna Edition Angewandte

Step into the captivating world of mid-century modern furniture design, where Vienna's renowned Edition Angewandte emerged as a beacon of innovative creations. This insightful article delves into the visionary designers, ground-breaking ideas, and enduring legacy of this influential era, exploring the timeless aesthetics and enduring impact of Viennese furniture design on the global design scene.



Mid-Century Modern – Visionary Furniture Design from Vienna (Edition Angewandte) by Alfons Kaiser



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## **Edition Angewandte: A Breeding Ground for Innovation**

Edition Angewandte, established in 1910 as a subsidiary of Vienna's University of Applied Arts, played a pivotal role in fostering the development of mid-century modern design. Led by visionary figures such as Josef Hoffmann and Koloman Moser, the institution became a hotbed of artistic experimentation, bridging the gap between art and industry.

Edition Angewandte's mission was to create high-quality, functional objects that combined aesthetic appeal with innovative design. The organization's

workshops provided a platform for skilled craftsmen and designers to collaborate, resulting in a diverse range of furniture pieces that embraced both traditional techniques and cutting-edge materials.

#### **Visionary Designers and Their Masterpieces**

Edition Angewandte attracted a constellation of talented designers who pushed the boundaries of furniture design. Josef Hoffmann emerged as one of the most influential figures, known for his geometric forms, clean lines, and exquisite detailing. His iconic "Sitzmaschine" armchair, designed in 1908, epitomized the union of art and functionality, becoming a symbol of the Viennese modern aesthetic.

Koloman Moser, another prominent designer associated with Edition Angewandte, brought a distinctive style to furniture design. His bold use of color, geometric patterns, and simplified forms challenged conventional notions of furniture as mere functional objects. Moser's iconic "Libellen" chair, featuring a delicate metal frame and intricate lacing, showcases his avant-garde approach to design.

## Influence of Art Nouveau and Bauhaus

The mid-century modern furniture produced by Edition Angewandte was heavily influenced by the Art Nouveau and Bauhaus movements. Art Nouveau's organic forms and decorative elements found expression in the intricate metalwork and sinuous lines of Viennese furniture. Bauhaus's emphasis on functionality and mass production inspired the sleek, minimalist designs that became synonymous with mid-century modernism.

Edition Angewandte designers managed to strike a delicate balance between these opposing influences, creating furniture that was both aesthetically pleasing and practical. Their work seamlessly integrated the fluidity of Art Nouveau with the geometric rigor of Bauhaus, resulting in a unique and enduring design style.

#### Legacy and Influence

The mid-century modern furniture designed by Edition Angewandte left an indelible mark on the world of design. Its innovative forms and timeless aesthetics continue to captivate collectors and design enthusiasts alike. The furniture pieces created during this era are not mere objects; they are tangible expressions of a groundbreaking design vision that shaped the way we live and interact with our surroundings.

Edition Angewandte's influence extended beyond Vienna and Austria, reaching international acclaim. Its designs were showcased in prestigious exhibitions and became part of private and public collections worldwide. The legacy of this influential institution continues to inspire contemporary designers, who draw inspiration from the visionary creations of the midcentury modern era.

Mid-century modern furniture design from Vienna's Edition Angewandte stands as a testament to the power of vision and innovation. Through the collaboration of skilled craftsmen and visionary designers, this influential institution produced furniture pieces that transcended functional boundaries, becoming icons of modern design.

The enduring legacy of Edition Angewandte lies in its ability to fuse aesthetics and functionality, creating furniture that is both visually captivating and practical. Its designs continue to inspire and captivate, showcasing the enduring power of mid-century modernism and its lasting impact on the world of design.



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