

# 09 Rococo, Gothic Revival

Monday, February 3, 2025 8:21 PM

## Today

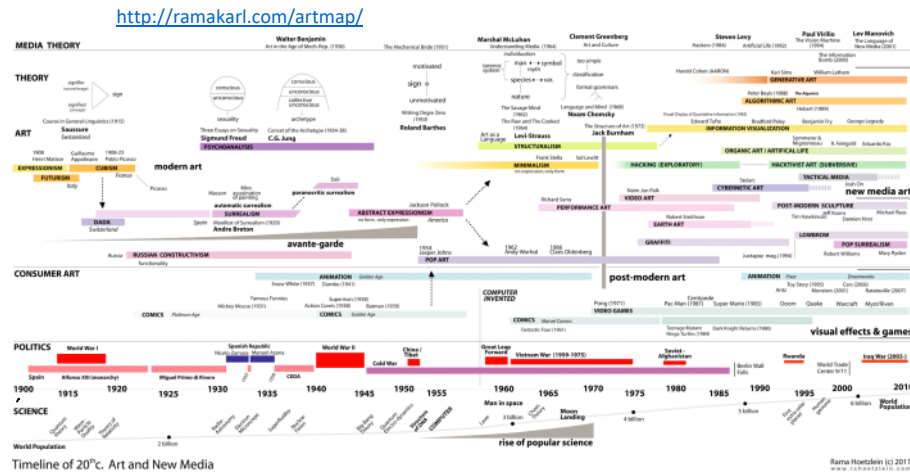
Admin  
Grad presentations  
Rococo, Gothic revival  
Perspective, shading

## Grad Presentations

Jax Whitam Barbra Hepworth

*Sit with your Pod*  
Join your pod Slack channel  
AND  
#class-discussions

## 20th Century Timeline



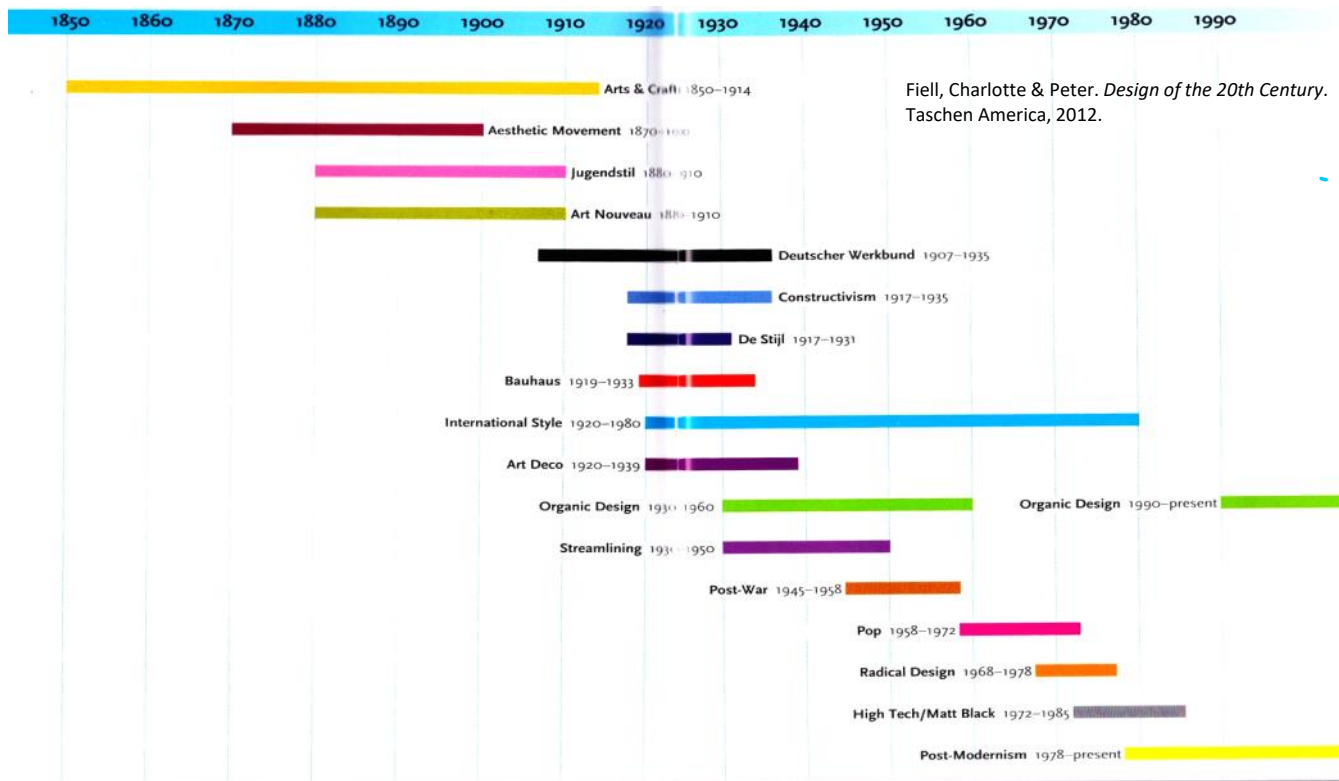
INDUSTRIALIZATION  
100 years old in 1860

1740's

Gothic Revival 150 years

Victorian era: 1820-1914

Baroque became Rococo



Fiell, Charlotte & Peter. *Design of the 20th Century*. Taschen America, 2012.

## Rococo

Now used to mean ornate, over-decorated, but is a specific aesthetic that overlapped with beginning of Gothic Revival



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<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=15268703>



## Characteristics

Rococo features exuberant decoration, with an abundance of curves, counter-curves, undulations and elements modeled on nature. The exteriors of Rococo buildings are often simple, while the interiors are entirely dominated by their ornament. The style was highly theatrical, designed to impress and awe at first sight. Floor plans of churches were often complex, featuring interlocking ovals; In palaces, grand stairways became centrepieces, and offered different points of view of the decoration.<sup>[1]</sup> The main ornaments of Rococo are: asymmetrical shells, [acanthus](#) and other leaves, birds, bouquets of flowers, fruit, musical instruments, angels and [Chinoiserie](#) ([pagodas](#), dragons, monkeys, bizarre flowers and Chinese people).<sup>[15]</sup>

The style often integrated painting, moulded stucco, and wood carving, and [quadratura](#), or illusionist ceiling paintings, which were designed to give the impression that those entering the room were looking up at the sky, where cherubs and other figures were gazing down at them. Materials used included stucco, either painted or left white; combinations of different coloured woods (usually oak, beech or walnut); lacquered wood in the Japanese style, ornament of gilded bronze, and marble tops of commodes or tables.<sup>[16]</sup> The intent was to create an impression of surprise, awe and wonder on first view.<sup>[17]</sup>

## Differences between Baroque and Rococo

Rococo has the following characteristics, which [Baroque](#) (1650-1750) does not:

- The partial abandonment of symmetry, everything being composed of graceful lines and curves, similar to [Art Nouveau](#)
- The huge quantity of asymmetrical curves and C-shaped [volutes](#)
- The wide use of flowers in ornamentation, an example being [festoons](#) made of flowers
- Chinese and Japanese motifs (see also: [chinoiserie](#) and [Japonisme](#))
- Warm pastel colours<sup>[18]</sup> (whitish-yellow, cream-coloured, pearl greys, very light blues)<sup>[19]</sup>

From <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rococo>

Design in a Nutshell, from the British Open University:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NsfL8KpM7Qs&list=PLhQpDGfX5e7CJ87BDeuTdXTpxl0YM2Tdb>

Gothic Revival: Design in a Nutshell (1/6)



What were the characteristics of Gothic Revival (a.k.a Victorian) design?

Shapes, pointed, columns, tall spires, Pluses, gargoyles, flying buttresses, quatrefoils

Fancy shape, quatrefoil  
Tall arches, pointed windows, stonework  
Crosses  
Gargoyles  
Dark color palettes  
Expression of wealth  
Shadows  
Tall pointy roofs, spires

#### Pods:

Go online and find a few examples of Gothic Revival or Gothic Modern. What design elements match this aesthetic?  
Post links to your choices in your pod's slack channel. Ok to discuss there too.

10 minutes, then each pod will report out to the class.

Pod 1: chair, stool  
Pod 2: bed  
Pod 3: clothing  
Pod 4: flatware, cutlery  
Pod 5: light fixture - candlestick holders  
Pod 6: jewelry  
Pod 7: andirons  
Pod 8: mirror/picture/painting frame  
Pod 9: typography, fonts  
Pod 10: tableware - cups, plates, bowls  
Pod 11: side or dining tables  
Pod 12: writing desks

Post yours  
#class-discussion