

# classics

an introduction to recent historic periods



Medieval • Georgian • Victorian • Art Nouveau • Art Deco • Edwardian • Art Deco



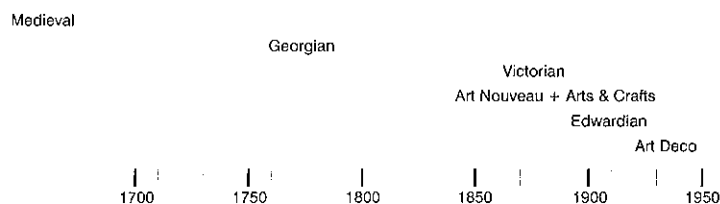
# welcome to our 'classics' brochure

Throughout this brochure you will find details of our extensive range of lighting which demonstrates the arts and fashions of various periods of history. Within each section we have also detailed some of the history of that period and the background to the various art movements which our ranges reflect. No matter what project you are working on, whether it's restoring a historical building to its former glory or setting a theme for entertainment in a home or hotel, this catalogue will inspire you and help you to complete your project down to the finest and most intricate detail. Obviously we can only show you a fraction of our archive material and we would be only too pleased to give you access to our historical library of over 35,000 products.

The Great British Lighting Company can trace its history back to the beginning of the last century, and proudly continues an unbroken tradition of design and manufacturing excellence. Based in Fleetwood, Lancashire, the business was built around the provision and maintenance of the town's famous trawler fleet. The company quickly established a reputation among the wider fishing community for its range of oil burning navigation lamps, designed and built to withstand the harshest of elements during long trips to inhospitable waters.

The range of products grew and developed to encompass domestic, decorative gas lighting, high profile commissions were received from some of the finest homes and public buildings in the region, further enhancing the company's profile. The advent of the new electric light technology was arguably one of the most exciting times for the business, heralding the introduction of a wealth of fabulous designs and making lighting the 'must have' product of its day.

Today, only a few steps from the original workshops on the dockside, a purpose-built factory is the modern setting for our company's unique blend of experience, traditional craft skills and 21st century technology. Our commitment to manufacturing ensures that almost all of our designs from the last century are still available today, by retaining these rare skills we have been able to play our part not only in sensitively restoring many light fittings of our country's landmark buildings to their former glory but also in creating exciting new lighting features in theme parks, entertainment and hospitality venues. We are proud to work with leading architects and designers around the world, to create new lighting designs, which we hope will further enrich our understanding of our craft and ensure the survival of traditional manufacturing techniques for the benefit of future generations.



# medieval



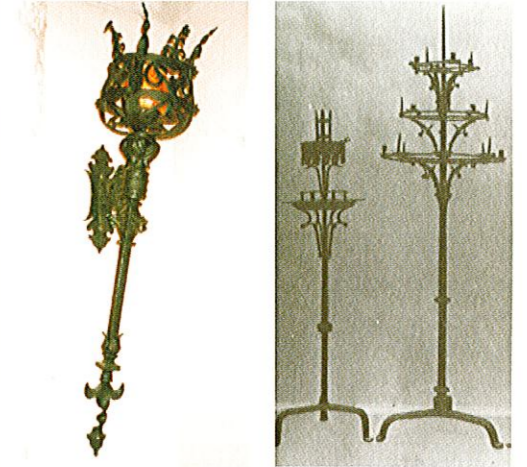
A lot happened in this period which historically spans over a thousand years and saw many monarchs on the English throne, many battles won and lost and many changes in society. One of the main influences on all aspects of life throughout the Medieval period was Religion and with it, superstition. Art and fashions all reflected this with an aim to demonstrate the awe and inspiration through the grandeur of God. Science was very much looked at with distrust and often as heresy.

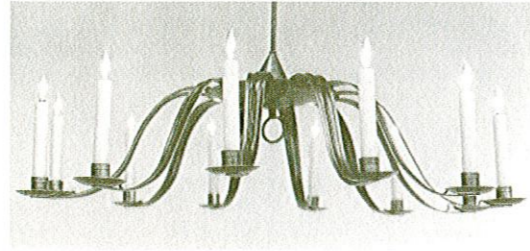
Throughout this period the country was governed by Lords and Barons who owned and ruled their own estates. The estate would consist of a large manor house where he would live, thousands of acres of land which housed several "villages", meadow, pasture, forest and cultivated fields where the people of the villages would work for him.

The Black Death consumed much of Europe between 1347 and 1351 wiping out around 40% of the population of the time. Many people had fled the town and villages fearing their lives and with so many people either deceased or run away something had to be done to encourage people back to the towns.

Education was poor with books few and far between and something only the wealthy could afford. As much of the year was spent trying to grow enough food to survive, religious feasts gave way to a break in what would today be considered a public holiday. Villages would be full of street entertainers as markets and village fayres were set up to entertain the peasants.

Skilled workers were classed as professionals and Guilds would be set up for qualified members of the professions to sell their good and services. With these Guilds came changes to social class and up rose the Middle Class Merchant.





# georgian



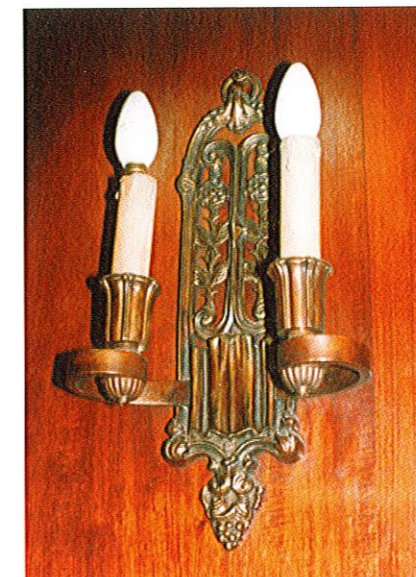
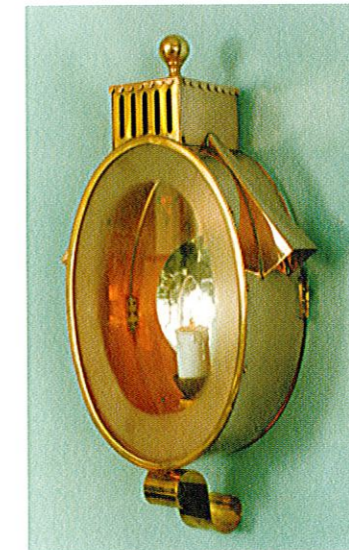
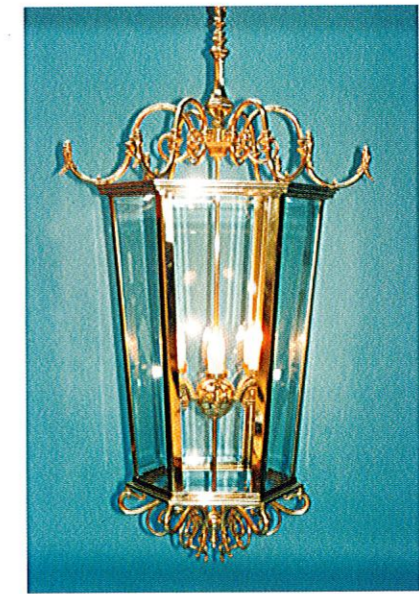
The Georgian period refers to the time when the British throne was taken by a succession of George's covering the period from 1714 through to 1837. George I ruled from 1714 – 1727 followed by George II from 1727 – 1760. Between 1755 and 1763 the seven-year war resulted in England gaining territory from Canada, Florida, Genada, Senegal and East America. George III who ruled from 1760 – 1820, was renowned for his periods of insanity, and it was during one of these periods that England lost the American Colonies in the American Revolution between 1775 and 1783.

It was during George III reign that the political system started to resemble what we know today. George I and II were not overly interested in ruling the country and didn't speak good English and so let Ministers rule on their behalf. As George III sanity deteriorated the Ministers rule became even more important in their decisions and ruling over the country. Ultimately as George III insanity worsened and he lost more trust from his people, his son was made Prince Regent and then King George IV.

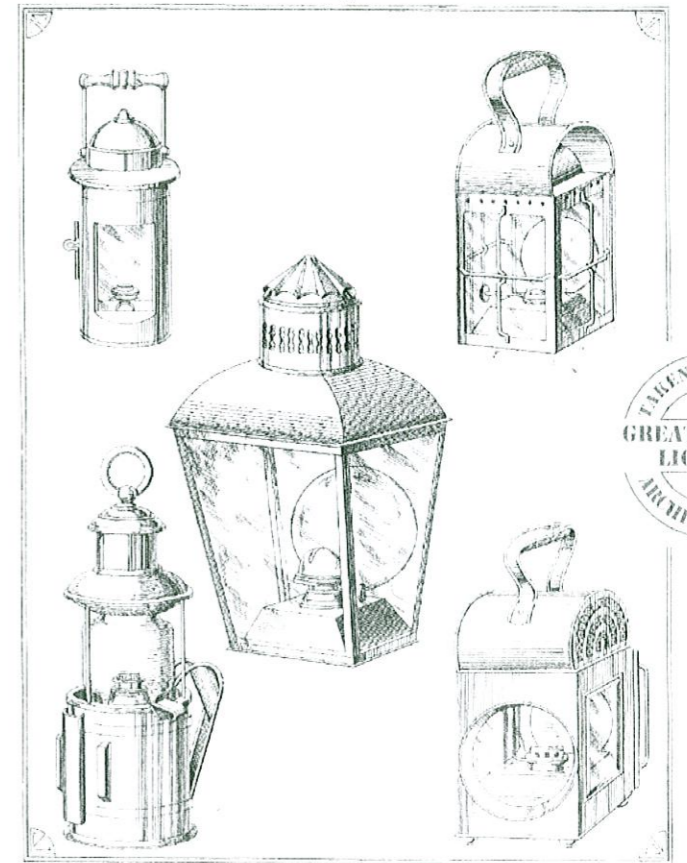
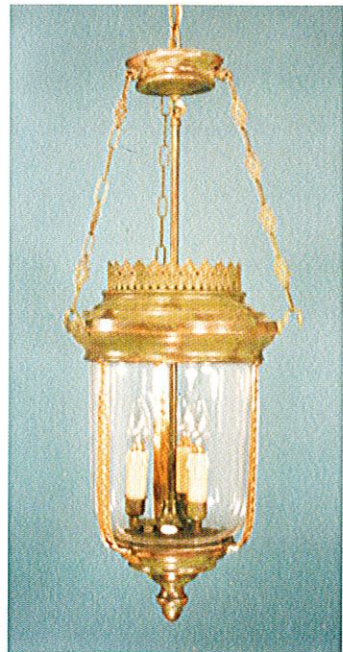
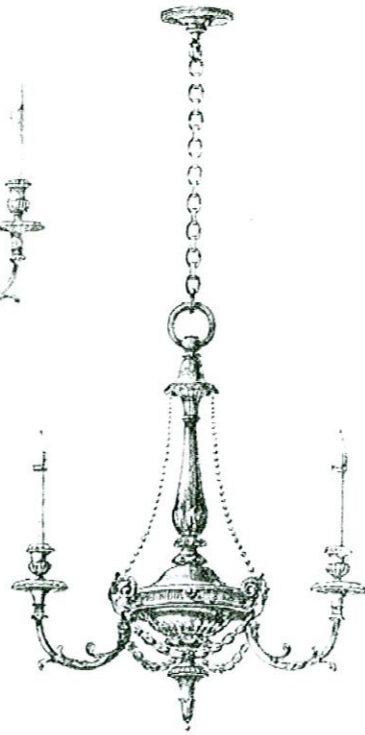
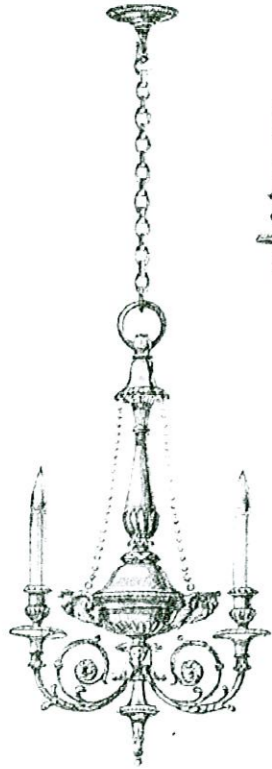
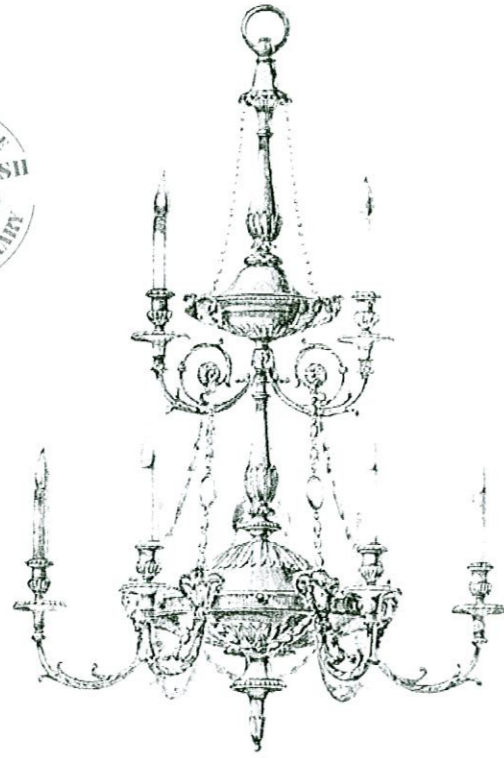
Class distinction in this period lead to a revolution in art and architecture with grand stately houses being the pride and joy of the wealthy. This was the height of social fashion and entertaining became popular, mainly as a means to show off. Everything would be very ornate and designed to impress, from the furniture to the huge landscape gardens.

The arrival of oil in this era was a major breakthrough for Georgian lighting and stately homes would be adorned with chandeliers made from glass, metal and wood and wall lights in brass, silver or silvered wood.

There was a fashion for the upper classes to travel in Europe at this time and as a result many of the designs of this era reflected Roman and Greek styling. It was all about harmony and symmetry, airiness, space and light with delicate furniture and pale colour schemes.



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# victorian



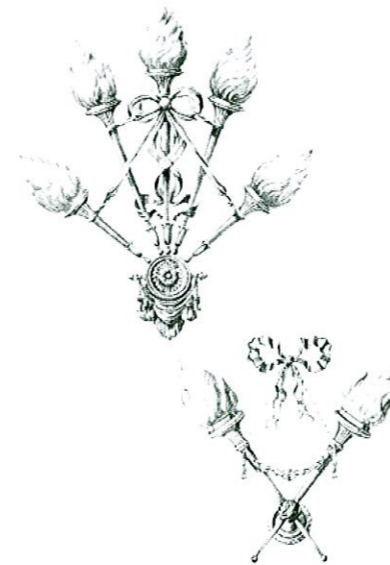
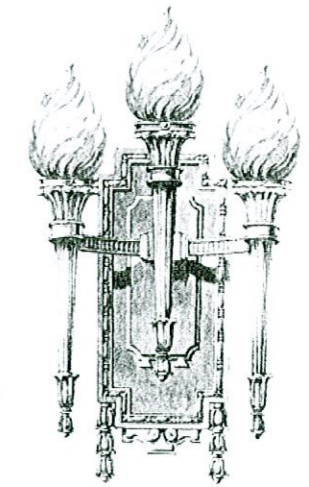
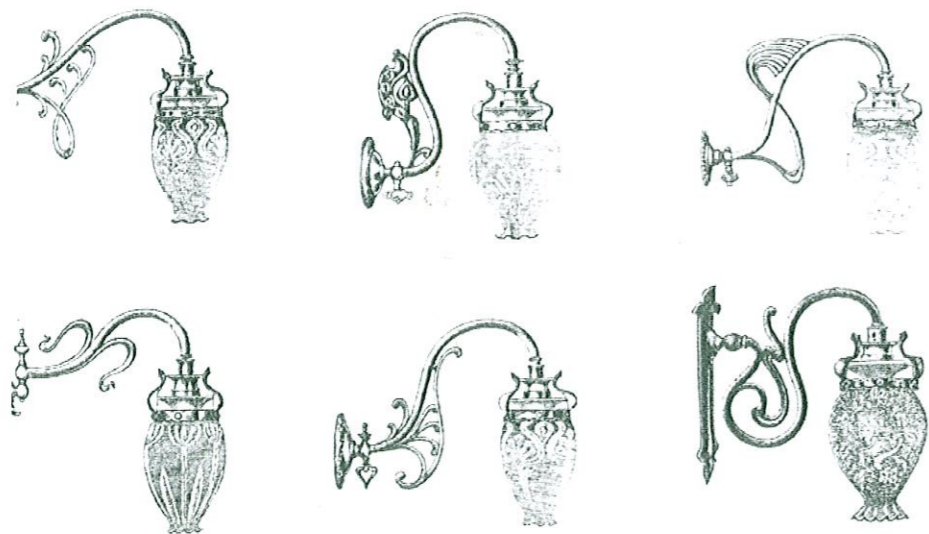
The Victorian period saw the reign of Queen Victoria between 1837 and 1901 and the growth of the industrial revolution. As more people migrated towards the cities and towns to seek work the industrial revolution went on. Over 80% of the country's population was living in cities by 1900 with a growth of 1 million people living in London in 1800 to over 6 million in 1900.

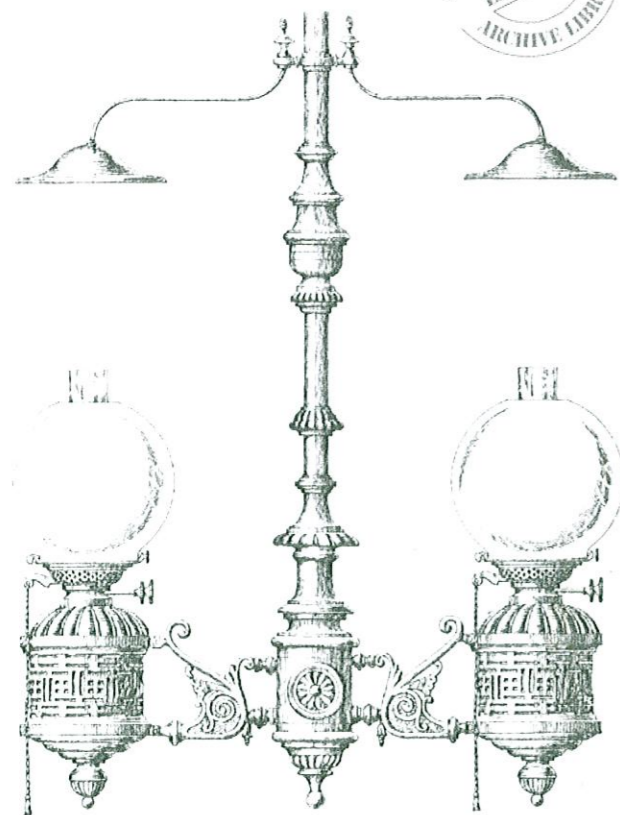
With the industrial revolution and the use of steam came the growth of rail. Industry relied on the rail network to carry supplies and produce but the railways also became imperative in the birth of what is now the stereotypical British Seaside Resort. People would escape the cities and towns and enjoy the fresh air and relaxation of Coastal Towns such as Blackpool and Brighton. Piers and theatres were built to entertain the visitors who flocked there in their droves especially on the newly introduced "Bank Holidays" when factories everywhere would shut down completely on the day which was declared an official public holiday.

The class move in this period again saw a change as it was not just wealthy land owners who were considered in the upper classes but city life became fashionable as wealthy factory owners paraded the towns.

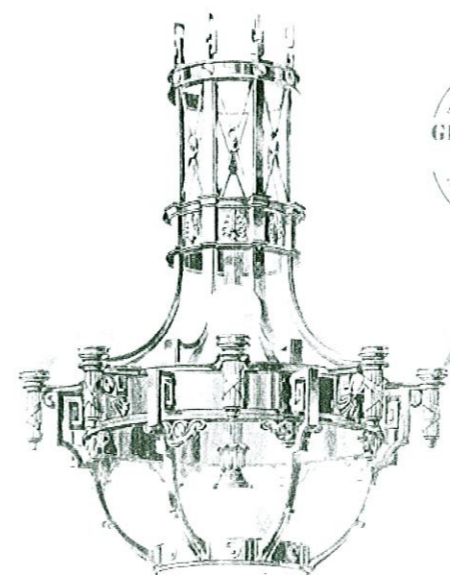
All the changes happening in industry and transport brought a new kind of prosperity to Britain and many people chose to show this prosperity in their homelife. The Victorians associated the clutter of ornamentation and ostentatious display with wealth and so crammed their homes with furniture, bric-a-brac and pianos to show their refinement and taste

The Great Exhibition set up by Queen Victoria's husband Prince Albert in 1851 had a huge impact on art and design as it focused on the exhibition of manufactured goods from all over the world and the Arts & Crafts and Art Nouveau movements were born.

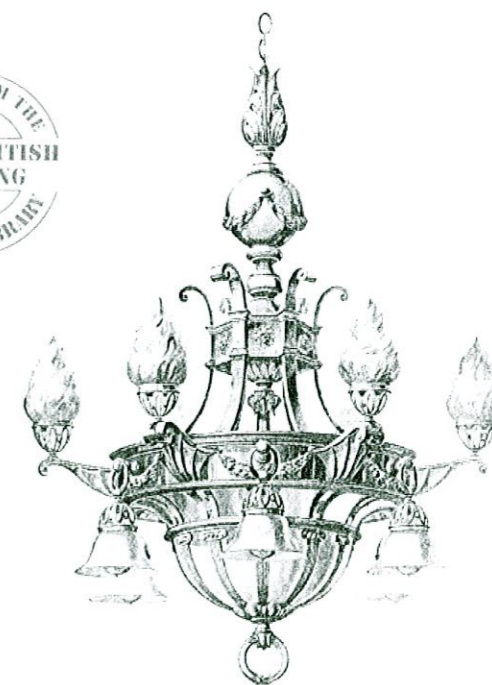




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# art nouveau + arts & crafts



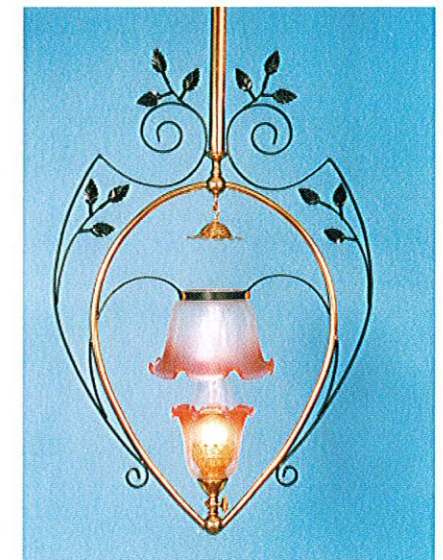
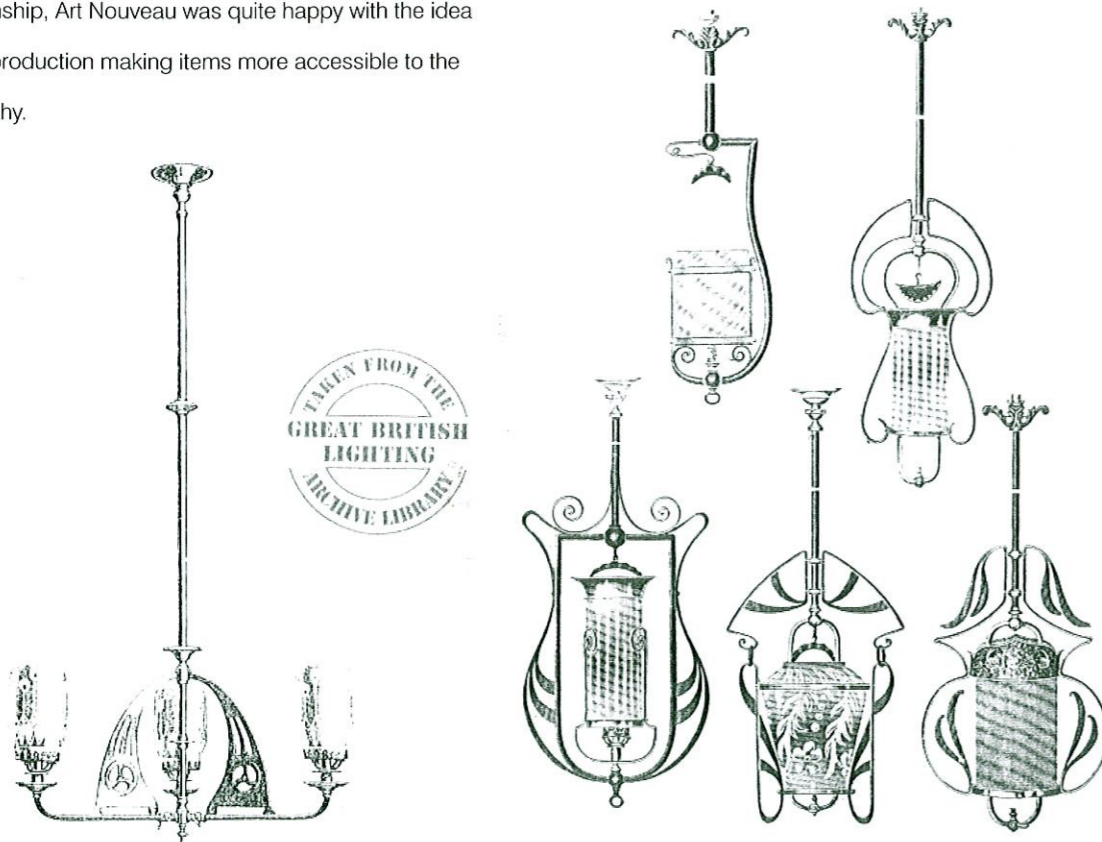
These artistic movements were at their height during Queen Victoria's reign. Both movements focused on quality goods and fine craftsmanship and found their inspiration in nature and what we see around us. The style was simple with little ornamentation, focusing rather on the beauty of natural materials.

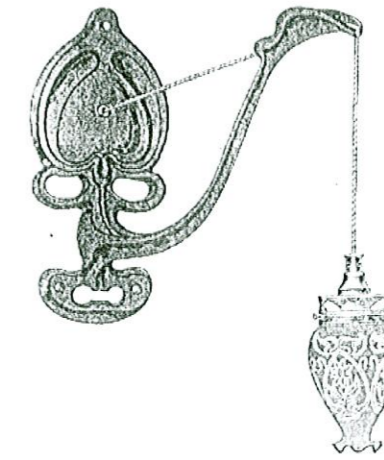
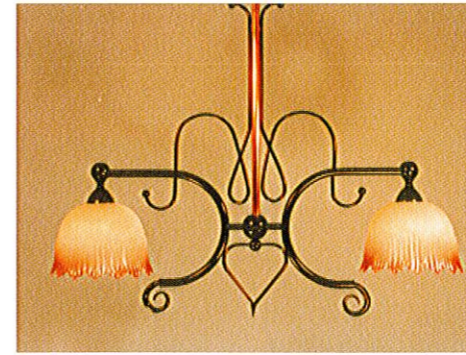
The Arts & Crafts movement was at its peak between 1860 and 1890 and to support the skilled craftsmen who would painstakingly work on pieces, the medieval system of trades and guilds was used for craftsmen to set up their own companies and sell their goods. But this proved expensive and only the wealthy could afford the items.

Following the World Fair in Paris in 1900, Art Nouveau turned into a concerted attempt to create an international style based on decoration and embraced the possibilities of new materials such as cast iron, having aesthetic possibilities.

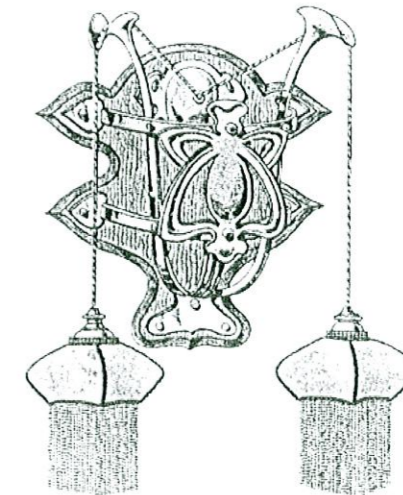
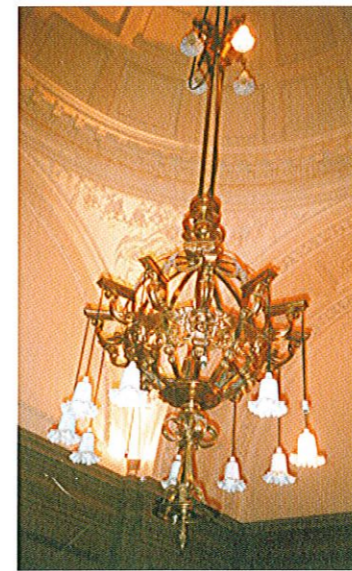
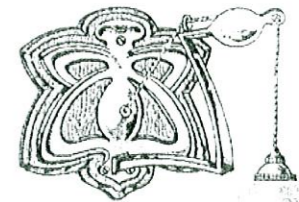
When Art Nouveau came into focus in 1890, this problem was reduced, as, while holding the same beliefs of quality craftsmanship, Art Nouveau was quite happy with the idea of mass production making items more accessible to the less wealthy.

Designers believed in creating a total work of art in everything – buildings, furniture, textiles, clothes and jewellery all conformed.

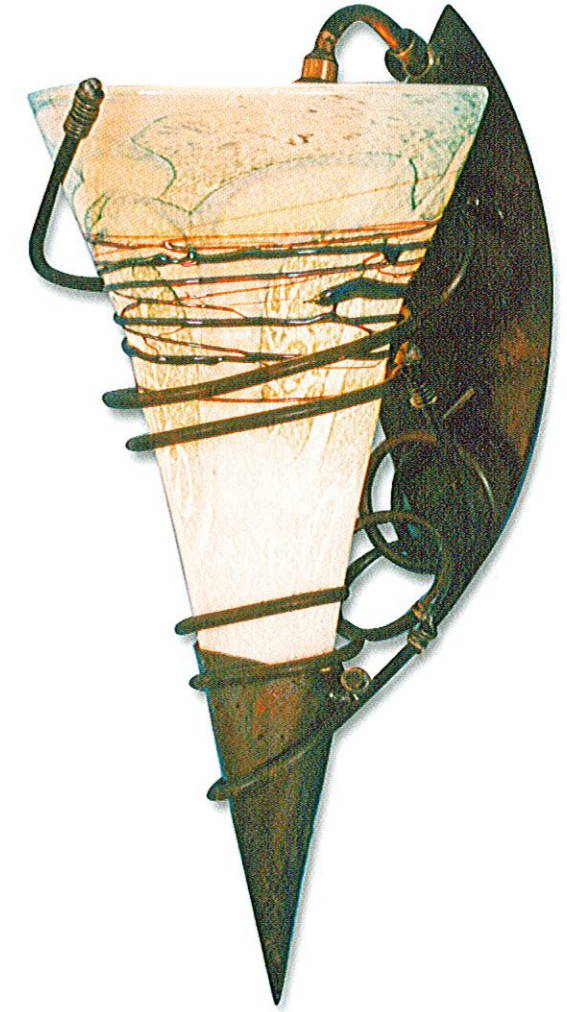
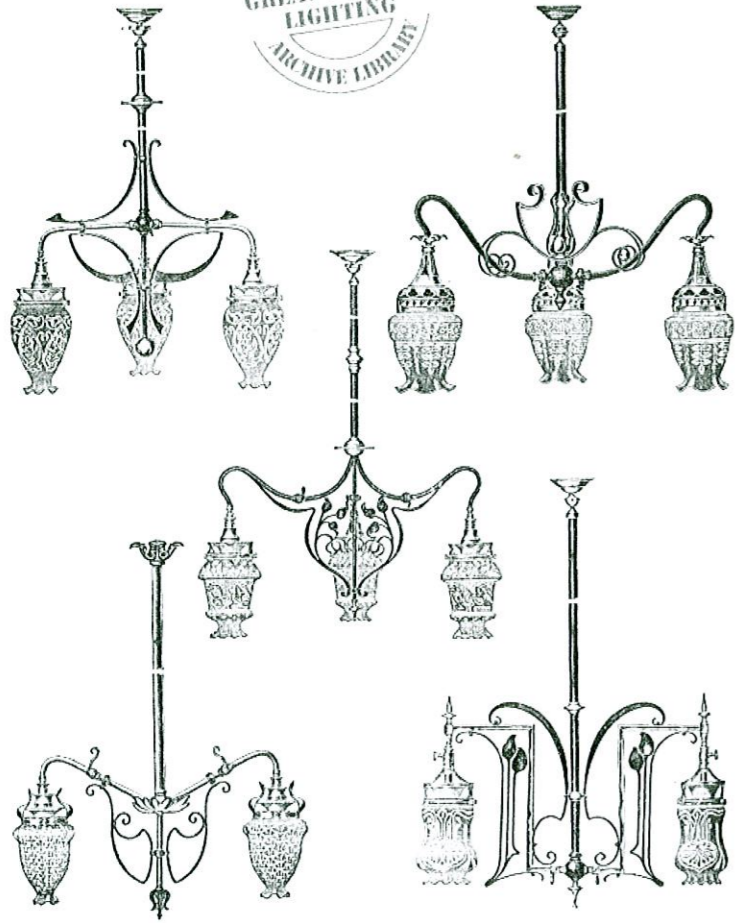




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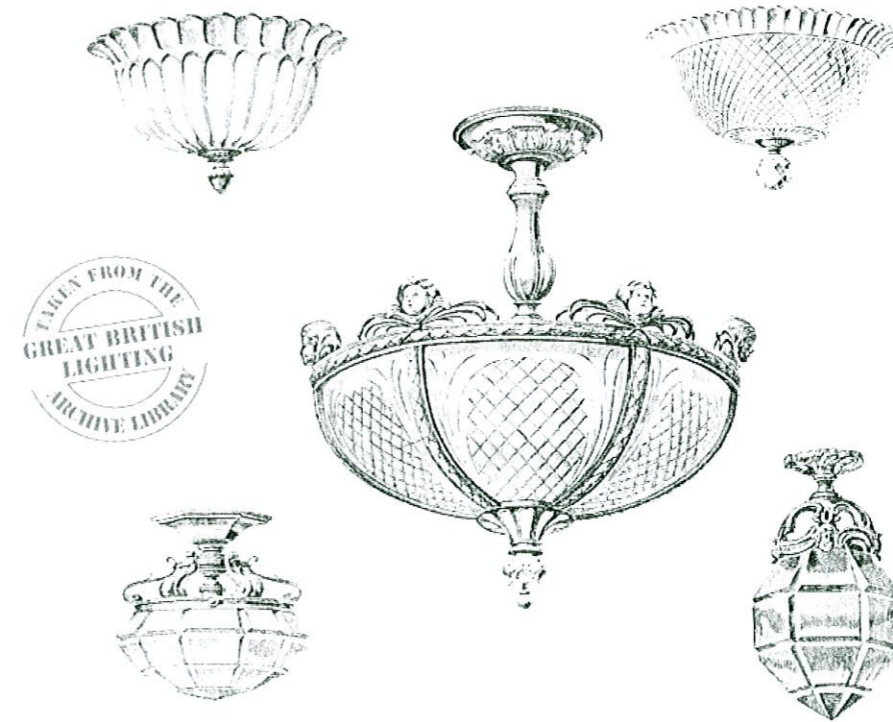
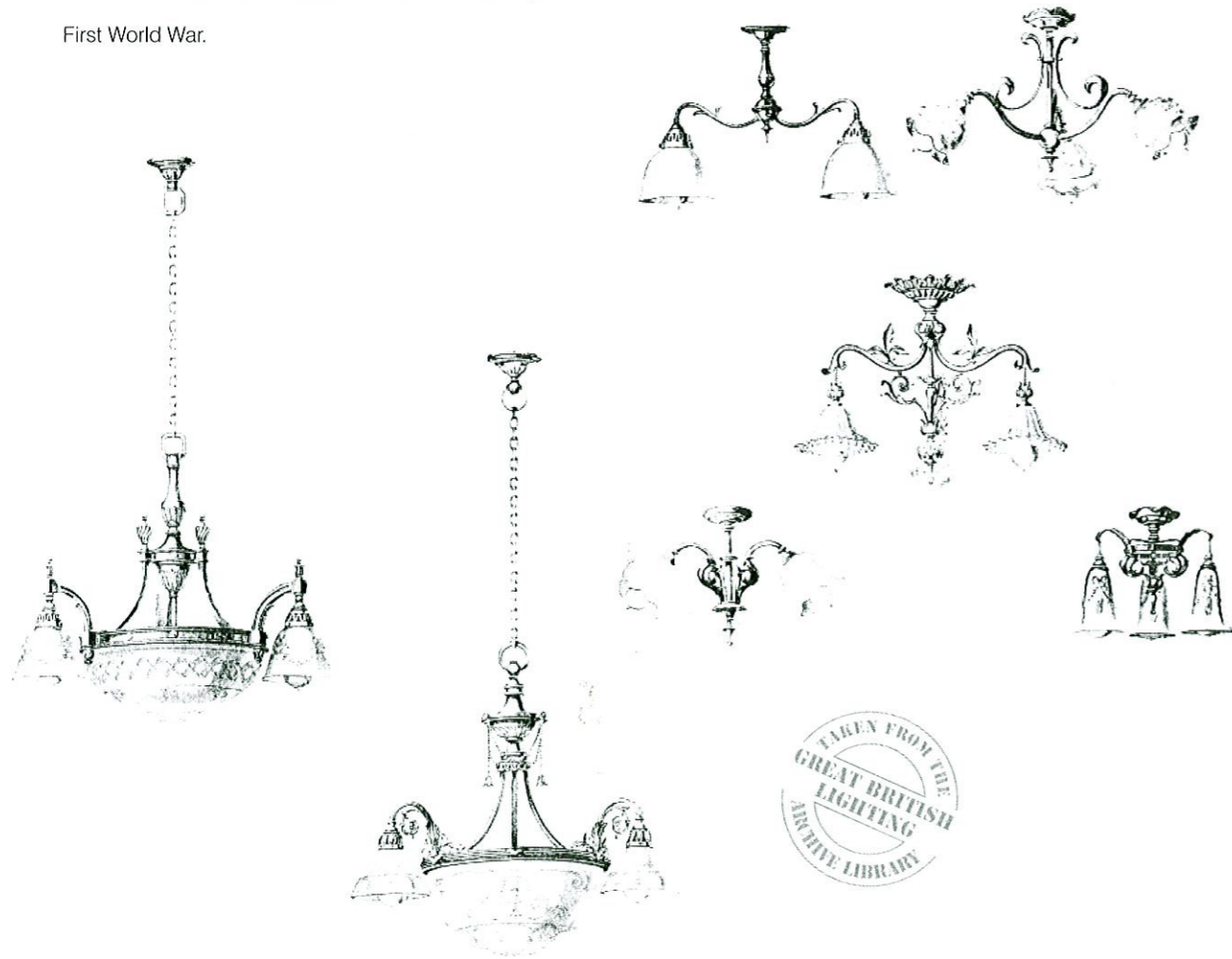
# edwardian

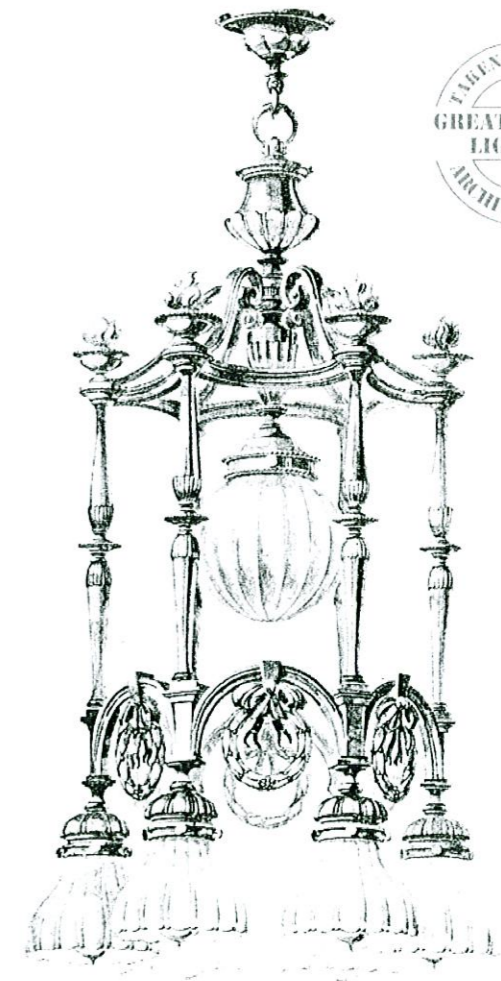
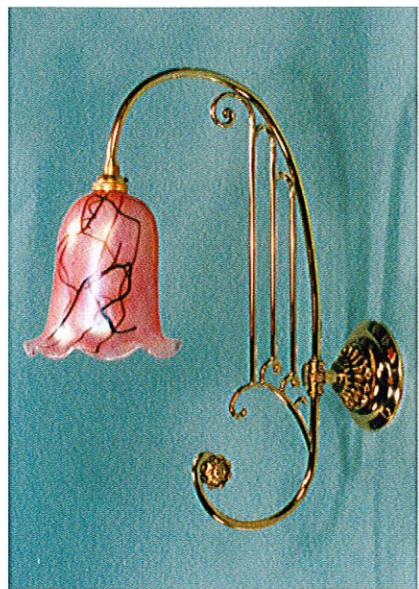


After the death of Queen Victoria, King Edward VII came to reign between 1901 and 1910. Much of this period, also known as Belle Epoque (Beautiful Era), was fashioned by styles from continental Europe. Edward VII himself was a keen traveller and with the popularity of sea crossings at the time it was made easier and more accessible to many of the wealthier upper classes who would travel and bring home many ideas that they had seen.

The upper classes were now finding more entertainment in leisure sports and accompanying this came more flexible clothing fashions. 1908 saw London hosting the Olympic games, again bringing international influences into the minds of the British people. The Edwardian era also started to see the breakdown of social classes in the run up to the First World War.

It was in this period that the motor car took to the British roads. A reliable car could be bought for just £150 and by 1905 there were around 9000 motor cars on the road, which would reach top speeds of up to 25 miles per hour.





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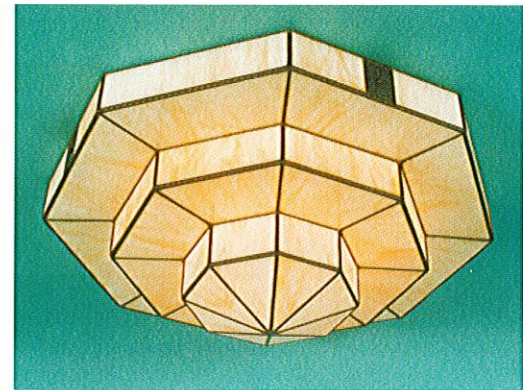
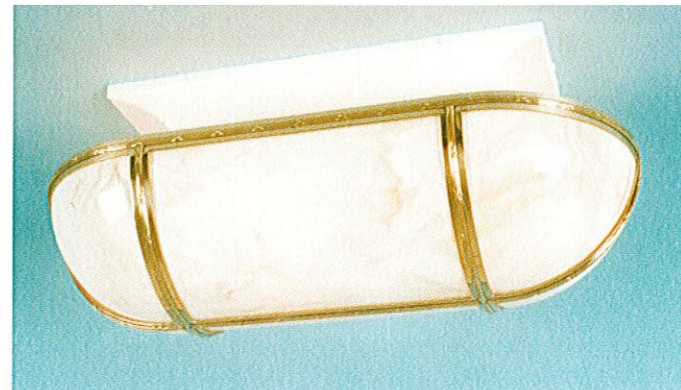
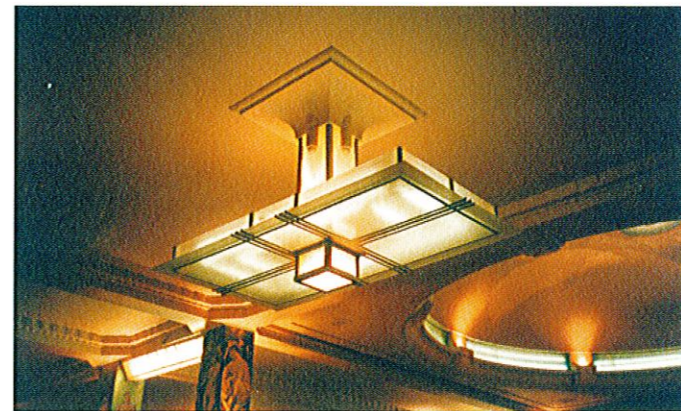
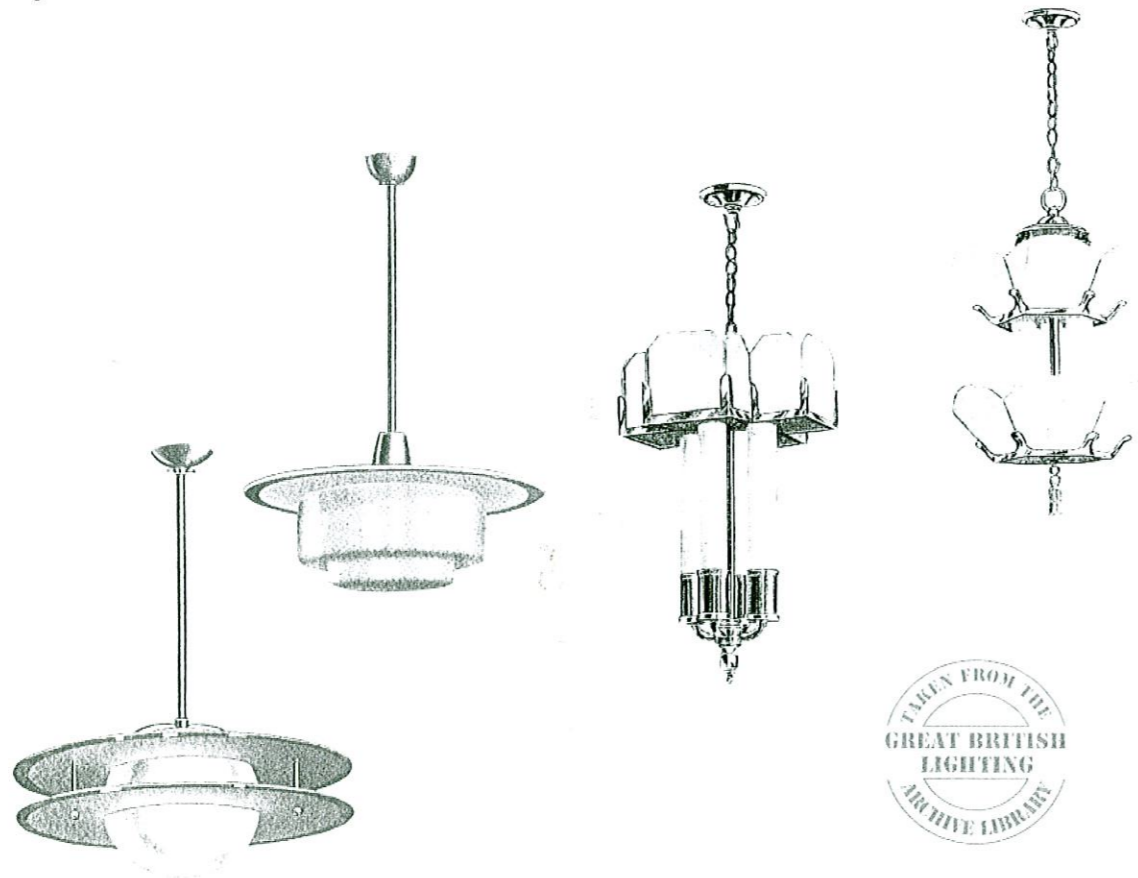
# art deco

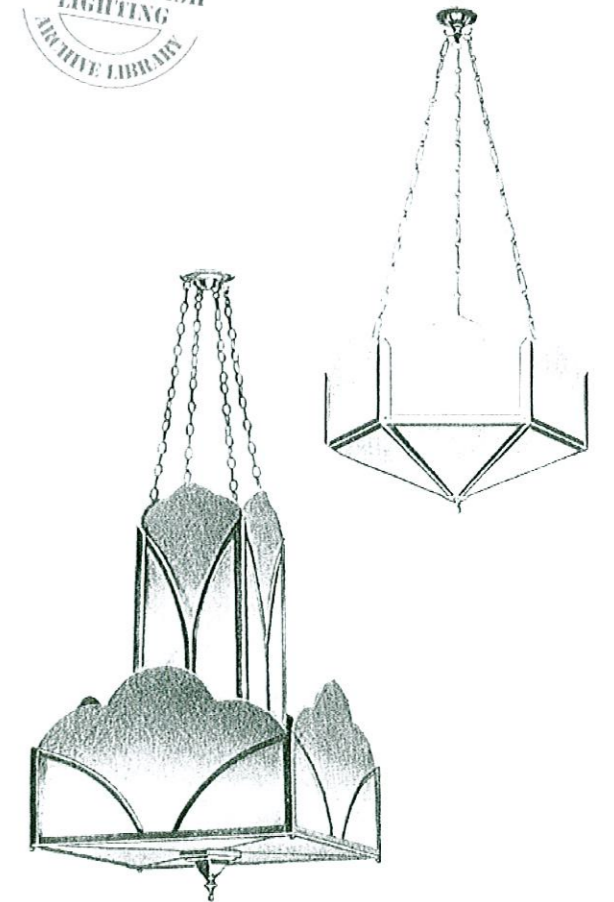
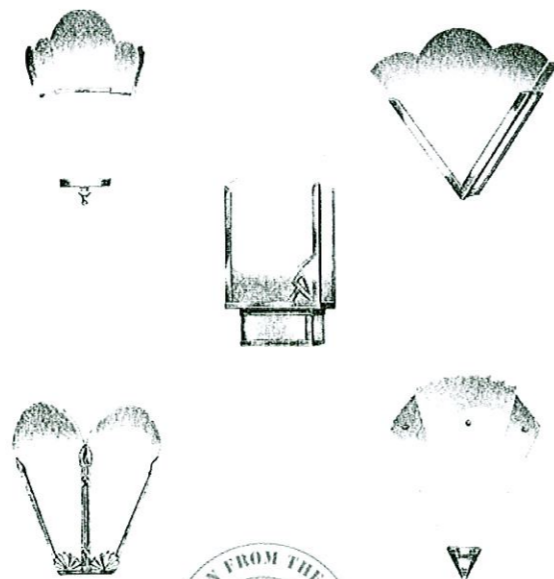
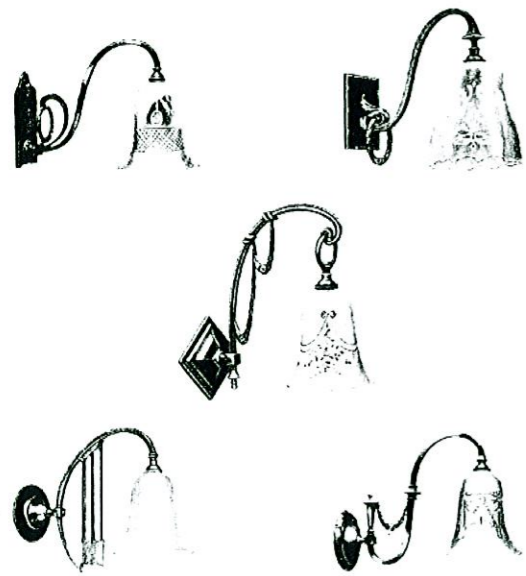
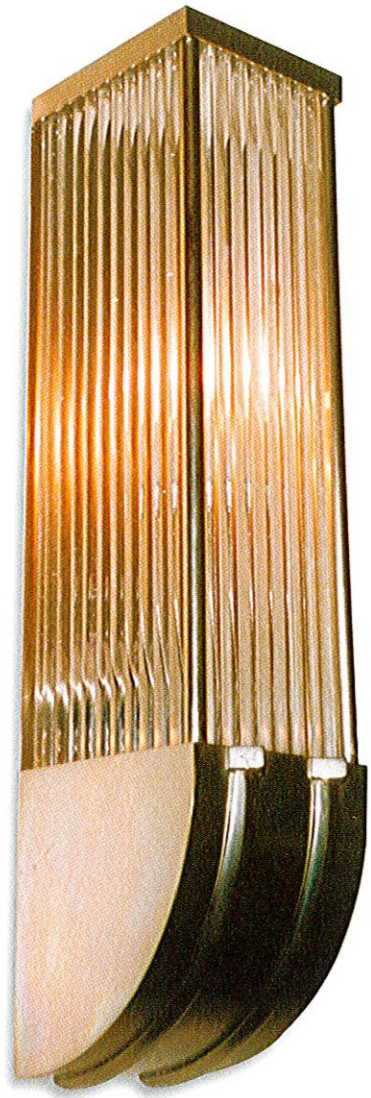


Covering the main period between the two World Wars, the Art Deco movement was all about change and contradictions. Born in 1925 following the end of the First World War, Art Deco reacted to the many changes of society and living at the time and reflected this in its style.

During World War 1 the role of women changed dramatically, with their husbands away at war they had to take care of matters outside their homes and were reluctant to give up their freedom when the men returned. By the time the war ended in 1918 corsets and petticoats were no more and instead women wore short dresses and makeup and often short hair. Women had been given the right to vote and many smoked and drove cars. In this time of change, the world looked to Paris for leadership in fashion and design and Art Deco was born.

The Art Deco style infused the everyday world with an elegant style of cool sophistication. Travel was in the news with ocean liners racing the Atlantic and trains crossing continents, as speed became a metaphor for modern times. Ornate mouldings and scrolled protrusions were a thing of the past and Art Deco focused instead on curves, sleek lines and geometric shapes. There was a lot of contrast in colour with palettes of colour such as chrome and cobalt blue or crystal and black.





# we are passionate about lighting and it shows

We make lighting, to order, here in Great Britain. It is this absolute commitment to manufacturing that really sets us apart from the competition and means we can offer a range of unique and high quality services to our clients. Whether it's a completely new design or the renovation of existing fixtures, one piece or a whole scheme, by working directly with a genuine manufacturer the end product will be exactly as you want it. We realise that craft skills (the ability to make something special, by hand) are disappearing fast due to pressures exerted by high volume manufacturers in low cost countries. To ensure a continuity of tradition and ability we continue to provide apprenticeships and training for our own staff, and work closely with other like-minded artisans and craftsmen, supporting small and specialist foundries, pattern makers, glassmakers and blowers.

Our approach to manufacturing combines a range of traditional craft skills and a modern production environment, creating total flexibility in our operation and enabling us to handle small batch and one-off production in addition to larger volumes. We work in a wide range of materials including Aluminium, Brass, Copper, Wrought Iron, Stainless Steel, Timber and Glass; consequently we have applied our skills in these areas to many 'non-lighting' commissions such as ecclesiastical and architectural metalwork, door furniture, leaded lights and stained glass windows.

While we are rightly proud of our manufacturing traditions, in the design and pre-production process it is technology that lies at the heart of our business. Sophisticated computer aided design allows us to provide clients with accurate visual representations of their creations, simplifying the approvals process, removing the need for costly prototypes and accelerating the lead time from concept development to final production. We have a dedicated and knowledgeable team that can research, design, develop, advise and inspire. Our sales and technical staff will work with you to ease the, often conflicting, challenges of architecture, style, reliability, lead times and budgets.

Whatever the type or location of your next project, we will be pleased to discuss your requirements without obligation. We have an extensive network of representation bringing the benefits of Great British Lighting to discerning clients throughout the world, and our experienced staff can arrange shipping and customs clearance for all major world markets.



Decorative fixtures during manufacture in the Great British Lighting workshop



Three tier pendant in situ at The London Coliseum



Inspection and testing of the pendant in our workshop before the final Antique Finish is applied

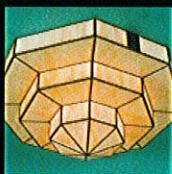
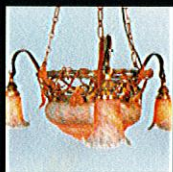
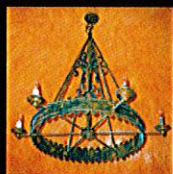


Final inspection of large multi-light pendant before being nickel plated



Exterior Victorian lantern being cleaned after refurbishment





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