

# GCSE/A-LEVEL STUDY GUIDE



## NOTES FOR TEACHERS

Furniture is used by people in a variety of ways and even the simplest pieces have a story to tell. It may be about the material it is made from, the person who designed and made it, who uses or used it and the history attached to it.

Gordon Russell Limited was often commissioned to create special one-off or low production pieces alongside the furniture designed for wider markets.

### AIMS OF THIS UNIT

To signpost the broad range of resources and workshops made available by the Gordon Russell Design Museum to support the teaching and learning of GCSE and A-Level Product Design.

### CURRICULUM LINKS

GCSE Product Design  
GCSE Product Design - Resistant Materials

A Level Product Design



[www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk)  
[www.edexcel.com](http://www.edexcel.com)  
[www.ocr.org.uk](http://www.ocr.org.uk)  
[www.wjec.co.uk](http://www.wjec.co.uk)

## GORDON RUSSELL DESIGN MUSEUM

Located in the original workshop, the Museum celebrates the life and work of Gordon Russell and his Company, over a period of sixty years in Broadway, Worcestershire.

Gordon Russell was a design pioneer - a furniture designer, maker, calligrapher, entrepreneur, educator and champion of accessible, well-crafted design.

He believed that the hand crafted tradition of British cabinet making could be fused with the possibilities of the machine. He succeeded in creating mass produced furniture that retained a strong sense of tradition and insistence on the highest possible standards of craftsmanship.

For Gordon Russell, good design could lift the human spirit. He believed in democratising design, making it accessible to many, not just the few. After World War II, he focused his attention on bringing Britain out of its bombed out austerity by promoting and developing the British design industry. He helped to establish and then became director of the Council for Industrial Design (now the Design Council) and had a profound influence on British industry, design and education.

Throughout his life Gordon Russell was committed to honest design, superb craftsmanship, quality detailing and a belief in the impact of good design on people's lives. He delivered his message to an international community of both manufacturers and the public alike. His legacy lives on in Britain's vibrant design industry.



*Gordon Russell receiving the Albert Gold Medal for Services to Industrial Design, from the Royal Society of Arts, presented by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, 1962*

## SUPPORTING STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

Since the Museum's opening was first planned, education of the next generation of potential designers and makers has remained at the heart of its motivation.

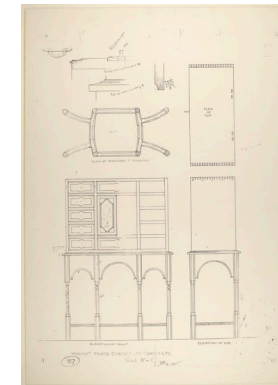
The rich and varied collection of furniture, notebooks, original drawings, catalogues and correspondence along with the firm's original reference library makes it a fantastic resource for studying product design.



The Museum offers a series of inspiring hands-on workshops exploring designing and making. In addition to learning about Gordon Russell and his work, students can also engage with the men who worked for the Company in the Design offices and in the workshops.

A range of resources are also available to support teaching and learning about this great British designer, his works and manufacturing methods. These units of work can be downloaded from the Museum website at:

<http://www.gordonrussellmuseum.org/learning/learning.aspx>



Jan. 28					
Customer	N <sup>o</sup>	Description	Timber	Animal Matter	Designer
Farnshaw	552/1	Executive Desk	Ro. Bowd.	M.J. Hasland	Ray Leigh
Dalson	653 X	Occasional Table	" "	D. Kinchin	Frewer Chunn
Brush Elec.	953 X	Boardroom "	Mac. Ebony	I. F. Whitsett	Martin Hall
" "	954 X	Wall Filtament	" "	I. N. Galt	" "
" "	955 X	" "	" "	D. Kinchin	" "
Maples	958 X	Extending Table	Ro. Bowd.	" "	" "
" "	588/1/1	Conference	" "	R.T. Smallbone	" "
Dubai	552/1/1	Executive Desk	" "	S.D. Micoke	Ray Leigh
" "	609 X	Telephone Table	" "	M. Hasford	" "
" "	1995 G	L Shaped Desk	" "	F.N. Clarke	Frewer Chunn
Copeland	969 X	Mobile Pedestal	" "	I. F. Whitsett	" "
D. of E.	960 X	Sideboard	Eng. Cherry	M.J. Hasland	Frewer Chunn
" "	961 X	Circular Table	" "	A.T. Harvey	" "
Dubai	272 X/1	" "	Ro. Bowd.	R.T. Smallbone	G.R. L <sup>td</sup>
D. of E.	588 X	Boardroom Table	Mac. Ebony	M.J. Hasland	Martin Hall
" "	978 X	Extending "	Ro. Bowd.	D. Kinchin	G.R. L <sup>td</sup>
Ocean Transport	1008 X	Circular	Can Maple	I. F. Whitsett	F.A. Basu
" "	R/1920	Executive Desk	" "	A.T. Harvey	Frewer Chunn
Anglo Portuguese Bk.	588/1/1	Conference Table	A. B. W.	S.D. Micoke	Martin Hall

Left: Original plan chest, designed by Gordon Russell

Right: Sketch for the Paris Cabinet 1925 by Gordon Russell;  
Original design ledger.

## RESOURCES

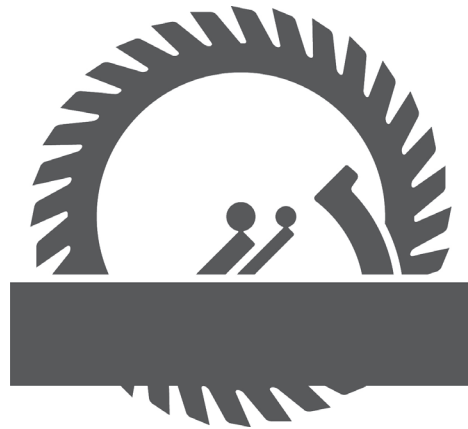
Below is information to help you access the different resources at various study levels:

STUDY AREA	PACK AND PDF DOWNLOAD				
GCSE Product Design	Teacher's Resource Pack (Adapt KS3 Material)				Museum in a Box Workshop + Tour
Design and Make	Take a Chair	Buying Furniture	Furniture Stories	The Office	✓
Materials	Take a Chair	Natural World			✓
Manufacturing Techniques	Take a Chair	Furniture Wars	Piece by Piece		✓
GCSE Product Design - Resistant Materials	Teacher's Resource Pack (Adapt KS3 Material)				Museum in a Box Workshop + Tour
Design and make using a range of materials	Take a Chair	Buying Furniture	Furniture Stories	The Office	✓
Timber related materials	Take a Chair	Natural World			✓
Timber manufacturing	Take a Chair	Furniture Wars	Piece by Piece		✓
A Level Product Design	Art, Design and Technology Learning Pack (Overview on Gordon Russell, Company and Work)				Museum in a Box Workshop + Tour
Materials and Components	Take a Chair	Buying Furniture	Furniture Stories	The Office	✓
Design and market influences	Take a Chair	Natural World			✓
Processes and Manufacture	Take a Chair	Furniture Wars	Piece by Piece		✓

For further information or to book a workshop, tour or outreach workshop then please contact:

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GORDON  
RUSSELL  
DESIGN  
MUSEUM

[www.gordonrussellmuseum.org](http://www.gordonrussellmuseum.org)