

Shades of Grain



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Resene Natural

Adelphi Dining Table from Freedom Furniture

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ood is one of the world's oldest and most enduring materials.

Humans have played with it and used it to craft items as far back as history goes. From a design perspective, both ancient Greek and Roman homes were filled with elaborate wooden furniture, often with ivory, silver or bronze ornaments built-in.

While not the highpoint of design history, wood panelling dominated the Dark Ages, but not in a particularly tasteful way, with minimal furniture and stone flooring accompanying it.

During the Renaissance era, particularly in the 15th and 16th

centuries, a renewed focus on art and beauty brought wood back to the forefront. Exquisite craftsmanship with inlaid woodwork and furniture made from the highest quality woods featured in all the best manors from the time.

Jumping forward to modern times we can see that light wood tones have dominated interiors in recent years. However, while the Scandinavian style with grey, pale and other bleached woods has been hugely popular over the last few decades, it's starting to give way to a darker style.

The tide is starting to turn toward darker wood tones, with more designers taking the opportunity to feature darker woods like walnut and ebony. The dark tones give off a sense of luxury unparalleled by even the most beautifully designed light woods.

Most importantly though, when choosing wooden décor and furniture, you first need to make sure it matches the space. If the rooms are small-sized then lighter woods like maple, pine and birch are best fitted as they make the room appear larger.

On the other hand, dark woods are great at commanding attention and adding drama to interiors. The Merano Armchair by TON, available at Statement iD – as seen at Four Points by Sheraton Auckland – is a good example of dark wood being used in a modern hotel environment. In a wood stain like Resene Timberland, the simple twisting dark redwood gives the chair a timeless look that would fit in many different settings.

The York Side Table Teak from Simon James Design features wood tones similar to Resene Oregon. It has a simple and stylish look, embodying the Scandinavian minimalist aesthetic. Perfect for

either hallways or living rooms, the light wood and stainless-steel combination gives it a modern industrial touch.

One of the best things about wood is its versatility. It's perfect indoors as well as outdoors. At Freedom Furniture, the Adelphi Dining Table made from oak wood in a similar stain to Resene Natural has a nostalgic feel and could fit just as easily in a garden as in a dining room.

Statement iD's 002 Armchair by TON which was also used in the Four Points by Sheraton Auckland project is an example of using dark wood alongside lighter colours. With pale pink arms and legs in a stain hue reminiscent of Resene Whitewash, the chair pops with its dark almost-black bentwood construction. It's not surprising that the chair was a German Design Award nominee.

The Chief leather chair from Design Denmark is an example of light wood also being used to highlight other colours and textures. The leather seating in a colour like Resene Charcoal catches the eye, helping form an expertly crafted piece that is not just furniture but also a work of art.

The Modena 2100 Modular Bookcase from Danske Mobler is an example of ebony wood being paired with elegant design. The dark wood shelves, which are similar stain to Resene Pitch Black, are perfect for holding books, ornaments, or electrical appliances.

Finally, the Vcool Armchair from nood is a graceful piece of furniture built around a sophisticated wooden frame. Featuring tan wood tones like Resene Heartwood, this comfortable armchair has a rustic appeal and can morph any urban environment into a warm and cosy lodge. ●



Vcool Armchair from nood

Resene Heartwood

York Side Table Teak from Simon James Design



Resene Oregon



Resene Charcoal

Chief leather chair from Design Denmark



Resene Timberland

Merano Airchair by TON from Statement iD



Resene Pitch Black

Modena 2100 Modular Bookcase from Danske Mobler



Resene Whitewash

002 Armchair by TON from Statement iD