

BAROQUE: The word baroque derives probably from the ancient Portuguese noun “barroco” which is a pearl that is not round but of unpredictable and elaborate shape. Hence, in informal usage, the word baroque can simply mean that something is “elaborate”, with many details, without reference to the Baroque styles of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The Baroque period in the 17th and 18th centuries is characterized by large scale, bold details, and a wealth of ornament. The furniture and decoration from the period of Louis XVI is termed baroque.

SPOKE SHAVING: A finishing technique which replicates the natural curved edges found on well worn antiques.

POLYCHROMATIC: A 7-layer process of applying different paints, used by Brazil Baroque’s artisans.

FRESCO: Italian word for fresh. Typically, a wall painting in a water-like medium on wet plaster/gesso with pigments mixed with water. The color dries lighter and becomes integrated into the surface. The technique was perfected in the 16th century.

DECOUPAGE: An art form created by cutting and pasting down assorted materials in interesting new patterns and arrangements. It gained popularity in the 18th century as a “poor man’s” method of embellishing furniture. It was also employed to decorate boxes, screens, trays, etcetera.

PATINA: The mellowing of age on any object or material due to exposure or repeated waxings and polishings. The gloss on woodwork and the greenish coat on the surface of old bronze is the patina.

ECLECTICISM: The borrowing and combining of art forms and motifs from past periods and adapting the technique to contemporary usage.

CARTOUCHE: Usually a sculptured ornament in the form of an unrolled scroll used as a field for inscriptions. Also seen as a conventional shield and featured as the backs of Louis XV fauteuils.

FAUTEUIL: The French word meaning “open arm occasional chair”.

BERGERE: The French word meaning “closed arm occasional chair”.