

Christopher Dresser

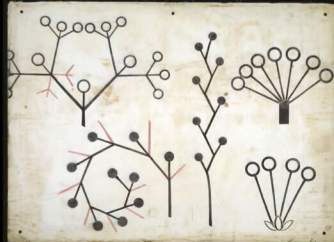
1834 – 1904

Scottish nationality
Aesthetic movement



An interesting personality, but difficult to classify.

His design and approach to it is a great source of inspiration.



If machines are to stay (industry will accept them, we will recognize that they help us with design) we must learn to use them correctly. And Ch. Dresser is a good example of what this conversation can look like.

Christopher Dresser



How would you describe these products?

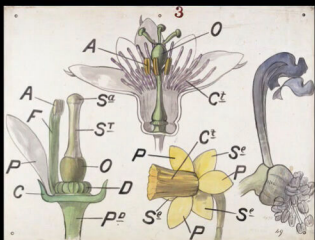
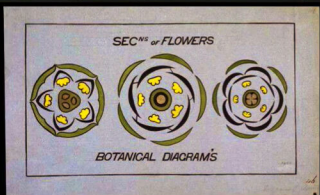
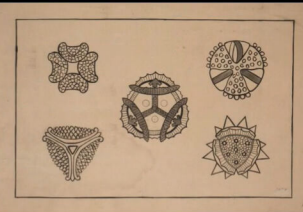
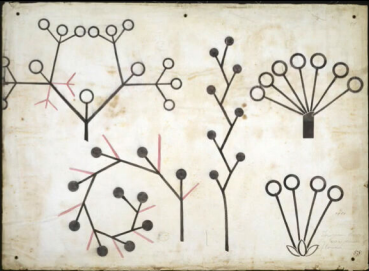
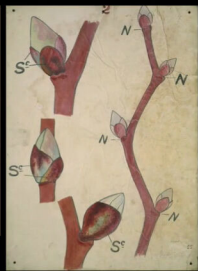
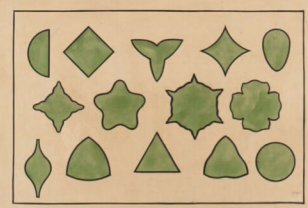
Christopher Dresser



How would you describe these products?

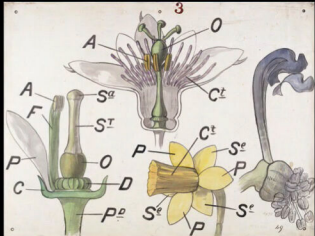
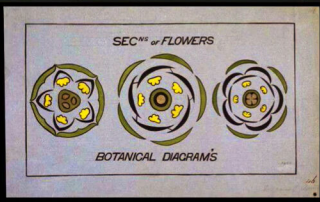
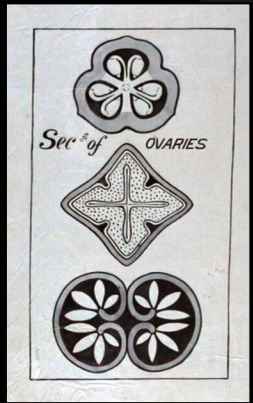
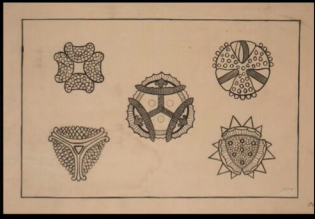
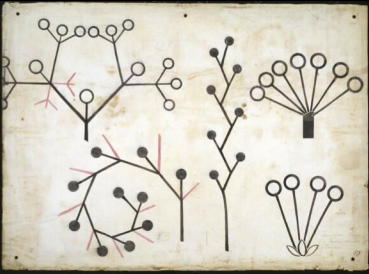
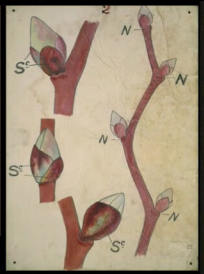
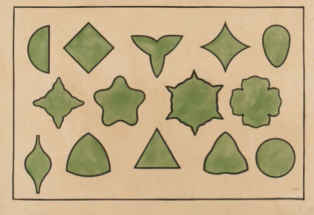
Angular
Alien-like
Cute
Weird
Strange
Ordinary
Stylized
Colorful

Timeless
Modern
Contemporary
Antique
Decorated
Plain
Designed
Imaginative



He studied botany - design did not exist as a field of study.
Nature - the second best thing to study!

Now why is that? Why was botany the second best thing to study?



He studied botany - design did not exist as a field of study. Nature - the second best thing to study!

As you can see, there are plenty of interesting shapes in nature and also many ways things are arranged - inspirational even today.

Christopher Dresser



Botany helped him produce these patterns which he then applied to his work.



Christopher Dresser



More patterns which are getting more stylized.



Christopher Dresser



Wedgwood, 1867



James Macintyre and Co., c.
1870

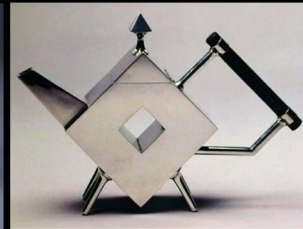
Practical application of
his patterns.

Christopher Dresser
Minton, c.1870



Another example where he used his knowledge of botany and patterns.

Christopher Dresser
James Dixon & Sons, c.1880



What is Dresser most famous for and why we learn about him...is this.

His approach to form which is very different given the time he lived in.



Comparison of his designs
with the design of 1860s.



Christopher Dresser
Hukin & Heath, 1879–1881



Christopher Dresser
James Dixon & Son
c. 1880



In his time, everyone was trying to make things more decorated.

His approach was more shape oriented.

Edward C. Moore
Tiffany & Co.
Mackay Service, 1878



Christopher Dresser
Hukin & Heath
1879–1881
Heath & Middleton
1881–1888



He was also combining metal with glass - creating interesting shapes

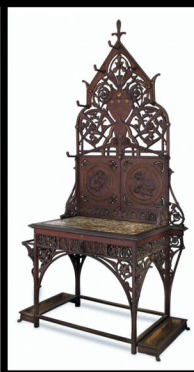


Christopher Dresser
Benham & Froud
c.1885

His genius was also in making small changes to his products creating similar but still very different designs.



**Christopher
Dresser**
Coalbrookdale
1870–1880



He also made more typical Victorian style furniture, but with a slight difference - would you be able to tell what is the difference?



**Christopher
Dresser**
Coalbrookdale
1870–1880



In his case - it's not literally leaves and ivy plants. He again uses "art botany" to create a geometry of repeated pattern out of nature.

So the difference is - this is more stylized and geometrical.



**Christopher
Dresser
Linthorpe
Pottery Works
1879–1882**

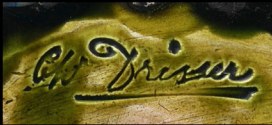
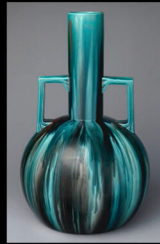


We already saw some of these

- this is him inventing shapes in other medium - ceramics

- the colors are made by the company he invented these shapes for

**Christopher
Dresser
William Ault
Pottery
1893–1896**



Yet another set of even more crazier shapes.

Christopher Dresser
Clutha vases
James Couper & Sons
c.1890



You can tell that he must have been a strange designer - and he absolutely was ahead of his time.

His design and his approach are great material to study and therefore must not be neglected.