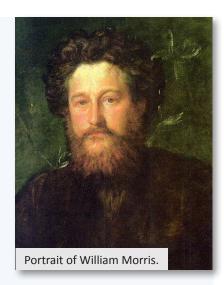# THE ARTS AND CRAFTS MOVEMENT

The Arts and Crafts Movement was an international design movement which flourished[1] in Britain between 1880 and 1910. It influenced architecture, domestic design and the decorative arts, using simple forms and a medieval style of decoration.

The central figure in the Arts and Crafts Movement was William Morris (1834–1896). Poet and artist, he tried to make his vision of beauty part of everyday life. Morris developed[2] a predilection for the culture of the Middle Ages in his studies at Oxford. In 1861 he and his friends founded a company – Morris, Marshall, Faulkner & Co. – which designed and made decorative objects for the home, including wallpaper, textiles[3], furniture and stained glass[4]. Later Morris's ideas were taken up by the New Education Movement in the late 1880s, which incorporated handicraft[5] work in schools such as Abbotsholme (1889) and Bedales (1892). Arts and Crafts objects were simple in form, without excessive decoration, following the idea of "truth to material", preserving and emphasizing the qualities of the materials used. They often had patterns[6] inspired by British flora and fauna. Several designer-makers set up[7] workshops in rural areas and revived[8] old techniques.

Portrait of William Morris.

William Morris textiles.

They were influenced by the Gothic Revival (1830-1880) and were interested in all medieval things, using bold forms and strong colours based on medieval designs. The Arts and Crafts movement was influenced by Ruskin's social criticism, which tried to relate the moral and social health of a nation to the qualities of its architecture and design. Ruskin thought machines were at the root of social illness and that a healthy society depended on skilled and creative workers.

The Arts and Crafts movement's qualities of simplicity and honest use of materials inspired movements such as Art Nouveau, the Vienna Secession and, in the long run[9], the Bauhaus.

1. to flourish: *sbocciare*.
2. to develop: *sviluppare*.
3. textiles: *materiali tessili*.
4. stained glass: *vetrate dipinte*.
5. handicraft: *artigianato*.
6. pattern: *disegno, motivo*.
7. to set up: *aprire*.
8. to revive: *far rivivere*.
9. in the long run: *a lungo andare, infine*.