

ASSOCIATION FOR FURNITURE STUDIES



PRESENTATION



THE ASSOCIATION FOR FURNITURE STUDIES

The **Association for Furniture Studies** is a private non-profit organisation, founded in 2004. It is dedicated to research, training and the promotion of furniture from antiquity to present day, and its activity is developed with several values such as sustainability, social responsibility, gender equality, culture of peace and professionalism.

We are Spain's leading centre for furniture studies and our aims are:

- To increase social awareness around the heritage of furniture
- To encourage interest in furniture and promote it
- To offer continuous training for professionals in the sector
- To boost knowledge of new technologies to conserve and restore furniture
- To encourage the exchange of knowledge between professionals
- To share research on a national and international level
- To provide access to information on furniture

For more information, consult [our site web](#).



La Ricarda. Antonio Bonet

WE OFFER

The Association for Furniture Studies offers the following services:

- Training activities
- Trips and excursions
- Appraisals, inventories, and studies for both private individuals and private and/or public entities
- Consultancy, cataloguing, and support in conservation and restoration
- Participation in projects and internship agreements

At the same time, the AEM has a range of resources that support the study and dissemination of furniture history:

- Specialized publications
- Public library on furniture
- Xylotheque



Donation of tools from Pere Cosp

OUR TARGET AUDIENCE

The Association addresses a broad audience: from historians, antique dealers, artisans, curators, conservators, cultural managers, collectors, designers, scenographers, architects, and interior designers to enthusiasts of decorative arts and furniture.

OUR ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITIES

1. Courses and conferences

One of the main objectives of the Association is training through courses, seminars, workshops, and lectures.

Special attention is given to the continuing education of professionals in the sector. The distinctive feature of our teaching is direct contact with the works themselves. On average, seven training activities are organized each year, covering topics from history to materials and techniques.

On our website, you will find all the current [training activities](#), with detailed information about content, dates, and requirements.



Cataloguing of mirrors

2. 360° Study

The 360° Study activity consists of a session of approximately 60 minutes, open to all audiences, in which experts analyze a specific piece of furniture live and share their knowledge in a participatory roundtable.

Offered in-person or online, attendees can participate with questions and comments.

Some sessions are recorded and made available on the [AEM website](#), with free access.



Casa Mitjana

3. Visits and trips

Each year, several visits and trips are organized with the aim of bringing the public closer to furniture collections and other works of art, interior spaces, and design pieces, guided by top experts. Priority is given to access to works usually closed to the public and to the exchange of knowledge.

To view past and upcoming [visits](#) and [trips](#), please visit our website.



Museum of Toulouse-Lautrec

PROJECTS

Since 2004, the AEM has carried out significant projects. Currently, we have two priorities:

1. El teu bagul, la nostra història

“El teu bagul, la nostra història” is a digital and participatory project aimed at inventorying, cataloguing, and disseminating online trunks, chests, and coffers from public and private collections in Catalonia, promoting their knowledge and cultural value. These types of furniture, universal and used from antiquity to the 20th century as a means to store and transport belongings, have developed local models that often remain almost unchanged over time.

In Catalonia, the chest is internationally recognized as an emblematic piece of furniture, particularly the chest with drawers, produced between the 15th and 19th centuries.

Despite this recognition, there is still no complete inventory or clear knowledge regarding the provenance, cultural and historical value, or proper conservation and restoration techniques for these containers, which form part

of both collective and individual memory.

Every day, we receive private chests for cataloguing. The results of the study are shared through www.elteubagul.com and presentations throughout the region.

2. Wood – Furniture – Sustainability

Since 2021, the AEM has been promoting the WFS project which aims to disseminate sustainability through both antique and contemporary furniture, creating dialogues between artistic heritage and natural heritage.

The project explores the materials used in furniture, highlights the value of wood as a CO₂ reservoir, encourages reuse, reminds us that historical furniture activates individual and collective memory, and presents antique furniture as a model for new sustainable designs.

Project results are shared through activities and publications.

For more information, you can find all the details about the project on our [website](#).

SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

1. The Xylotheque

In 2018, the **Association for Furniture Studies**, in collaboration with the Library and Archive of Design, launched the Xylotheque, a collection of 140 wood samples in block, thick slice, and veneer formats. Most are of local and European origin, with some exotic woods from Africa, America, and Asia. Each sample is catalogued, photographed, and described on a record, with both the common and scientific names engraved.

This resource allows for the analysis of the morphological, tactile, physical, and mechanical properties of the samples, as well as the evaluation of their durability and conservation. Each wood record is also made available online for easy consultation.

Additionally, the AEM shop offers the Minixylotheque, a pocket-sized version containing 36 wood samples. This tool is ideal for studying furniture, presenting designs to clients, or preparing conservation and restoration estimates.

Both the [virtual Xylotheque](#) and the [Minixylotheque](#) for sale can be explored on our website.



The Xylotheque of the Association for Furniture Studies

2. Consultancy, conservation, cataloguing, appraisal, and study

The AEM carries out studies, cataloguing, and appraisals, and offers historical and conservation/restoration consultancy for both private individuals and public institutions. Our clients include museums, house-museums, foundations, and other institutions. Additionally, the AEM works to preserve documentation related to furniture.

At the same time, it undertakes research projects, often in collaboration with other study centers.

Some of the activities carried out for public or private entities include:

- Cataloguing of pieces from the **Fundació Santander**'s collection (2023–2025)
- Gender-focused tour of the **Casa Museu Duran i Sanpere de Cervera** (2024)
- Object of the Month at the **Museus de Sitges** (2024, 2025)
- Cataloguing of pieces at the **Museu Palau Mercader** (2023)
- Historical study and technical record of the benches in the assembly hall of **l'Escola Municipal de Música de Barcelona** (2022)
- Cataloguing of furniture at the **Museu Palau Mercader** (2021)
- Collaboration on the *Decòrum* exhibition at the **Museu Tèxtil de Terrassa** (2021)
- Script review for visits to the Núria Pla furniture collection and training of guides at the **Fundació Ramón Pla Armengol** (2019)

- Preparation of technical records with historical-artistic studies of late XIX century furniture from the collections of the **Museu del Disseny de Barcelona** (2018)
- Economic and qualitative appraisal of the furniture at Can Costa House for **l'Ajuntament de Sant Vicenç dels Horts** (2018)
- Preparation of a brochure on Marian Aguiló's wardrobe, conserved at the Palau Marc, for the Department of Culture of the **Generalitat de Catalunya** (2015)
- Historical and conservation status study of the furniture at **Palau Güell** (2013)
- Consultancy and cataloguing of display cases and furniture at the Castell dels Tres Dragons building of the **Museu de Ciències Naturals de Barcelona** (2013)

Currently, our services are offered to the following institutions:

Centre de Restauració de Béns Mobles de Catalunya	Fundació Privada Manuel de Rocamora	Institut de Cultura de Barcelona
Diputació de Barcelona	Fundació Ramón Pla	Museu de Cervera
Escola Superior de Conservació i Restauració de Béns Culturals de Catalunya	Armengol	Museu del Disseny de Barcelona
	Generalitat de Catalunya	Palau Güell
	Fundació Mascort	

EVENTS

1. Celebration of AEM's 20th Anniversary

In 2024, the **Association for Furniture Studies** celebrated its 20th anniversary. On this occasion, a seminar was organized dedicated to the role of furniture in the performing arts, inaugurated with a keynote lecture by European scenographer Max Glaenzel, titled *Mobilis*.

At the same time, through the collaboration of María José Balcells and Mónica Piera, together with designer Ingrid Picanyol, the Falca was created, an object that defines the AEM, reflects its values, and synthesizes its mission.

You can see and read more about the Falca on [our website](#).



La Falca

2. III Ibero-American Congress of Furniture History 2020–2021

The **Association for Furniture Studies** organized the III Ibero-American Congress of Furniture History 2020–2021 in Barcelona, under the title **Connexions/Conexões/Connections**. The congress focused on the temporal, geographical, material, and formal connections in the history of Spanish, Portuguese, and Ibero-American furniture.

It was a great opportunity to advance in this sector through an event where reflections of various kinds flowed alongside personal development. During this edition, the AEM recognized the work of María Paz Aguiló Alonso, a leading Spanish figure in furniture studies.

The scientific results of the congress were published in three volumes of the journal *Res Mobilis*.



OUR PUBLICATIONS

Since 2005, the AEM has annually published a book containing the articles written by the speakers of the May monographic course, organized in collaboration with the Design Museum of Barcelona. The publications gather the latest research on the topic, authored by recognized scholars. They may also include summaries of roundtable discussions, technical records, and bibliographies.

All publications, along with their table of contents and purchase options, can be viewed and acquired through [our website](#).

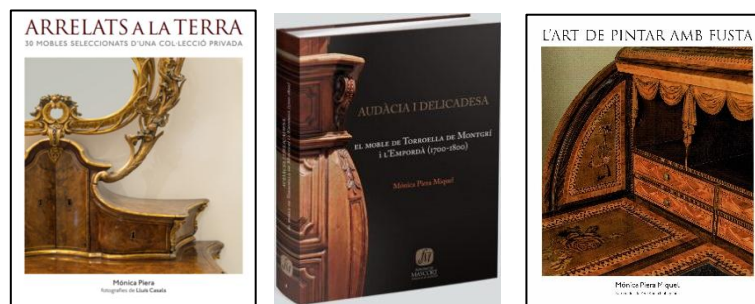


In parallel, since 2021, the Association has been publishing the AEM Dossier, a digital publication featuring texts by specialists from the annual seminar Parlem de.... Each edition invites scholars from other disciplines to provide a multidisciplinary perspective on the topic, aiming to advance the overall understanding of furniture.

The dossiers can be consulted in full online or purchased directly through the [website](#).



The AEM promotes the publication of books as its own initiative, collaborating with other institutions that join these editions.



Additionally, the Association participates in publications produced by other entities, either as an author of texts or as a technical collaborator, and publishes books that expand knowledge of furniture and showcase works from private collections.



Both types of collaborative publications can be consulted on [our website](#), where they are also available for purchase, or directly at our headquarters.

Finally, from 2004 to 2019, the Association published the biannual journal *Estudi del Moble*, featuring in-depth articles on the history, design, and restoration of furniture, as well as interviews and technical studies of pieces.



All publications are available at our headquarters for consultation or [online](#) purchase. Members enjoy a discount when purchasing.

RECOGNITIONS

Royal Catalan Academy of Fine Arts of Saint George, 2021

Dr. Mónica Piera i Miquel, president of the Association for the Study of Furniture, was appointed an academician of the Royal Catalan Academy of Fine Arts of Saint George in 2021. This is a very high recognition of her tireless work, focused on furniture and its conservation, while raising awareness of its heritage value.



“Wood Ring” Award, 2017

The Association for the Study of Furniture received the *Wood Ring* Award in 2017 in the Research, Training, and Dissemination category, granted annually by the Guild of Wood and Furniture. Mónica Piera, president of the AEM, received the “Confrare d’Honor” Award in 2019 in recognition of her outstanding work in support of the Brotherhood of Master Carpenters of Barcelona, serving as curator of the exhibition on the *Book of Apprenticeship of Master Carpenters* (1778–1820).



COLLABORATORS

The Association for the Study of Furniture works to establish agreements with institutions to promote knowledge through joint projects, as well as to create synergies that enhance the dissemination of everyone's activities and initiatives.

With this goal in mind, the following collaboration agreements are maintained:

Amigos del Museo Nacional de Artes Decorativas de Madrid	Coeli Platforms S.L.	Federación Española de Anticuarios
Associació de Propietaris de Castells i Edificis Catalogats de Catalunya-Monumenta	Col·legi Oficial de Dissenyadors d'Interiors i Decoradors de Catalunya	Fundació Cultural Privada Rocamora
Associació Catalana d'Estudis d'Emblemàtica Art i Societat	Consorci de les Drassanes Reials	Fundació Història del Disseny
Biblioteca i Arxiu del Disseny	Museu Marítim de Barcelona	Fundación de Casas Históricas y Singulares
Centre d'interpretació del Romanticisme	Escola Superior de Conservació i Restauració de Béns Culturals de Catalunya	Fundación Museo Cerralbo
Departament d'Educació i Universitats de la Generalitat de Catalunya	RACÓ	Gremi d'Antiquaris de Catalunya
EMBLECAT	Escuela de Arte y Antigüedades de Madrid	Gremi Fusta i Moble
Manuel de Cabanyes	Museu del Disseny de Barcelona	Institut de Cultura de Barcelona
Museu Cerralbo	Museu Frederic Marès	Institut Amatller d'Art Hispànic
Museu de Lleida: Diocesà i Comarcal	Foment de les Arts i del Disseny	Museu de l'Art de la Pell de Vic
Centre de Restauració de Béns	Ministerio de Cultura Museo Nacional de Artes Decorativas	Organisme Autònom de Patrimoni Víctor Balaguer (Museu Romàntic Can Papiol i Biblioteca-Museu Víctor Balaguer)
Museu de Disseny	Mobles de Catalunya	La Venaria
Museu Palau Mercader	Centre de Terminologia Termcat	Oficina de Patrimoni Cultural de la Diputació de Barcelona
		Centre de Normalització Lingüística de Barcelona

The **Association for Furniture Studies** is self-funded. It covers its budget through membership fees, the organization of courses, various trips, collaborations with certain public institutions, and occasional private sponsorships.

BOARD

President:	Mónica Piera Miquel
Treasurer:	Montse Morgades Tutusaus
Secretary:	Ivette Vilalta
Members:	Nuria Ruiz
	Joan Güell i Solà
	Tomàs Sevillano Molero
	Àngels Parés Roure
	Miriam Scollo
	Vicente de la Fuente
	Núria Gil

OUR HEADQUARTERS

The headquarters of the Association is located within the Library and Archive of Design. To provide better service, our library, archive, and Xylotheque are managed by the Library and Archive of Design, which facilitates book consultation and loans when needed



Headquarters of Association for Furniture Studies

CONTACT

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