



THE ARTS
SOCIETY
TAUNTON

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MORRIS TO IKEA: MODERNITY AND TRADITION AT HOME

with Stephen Taylor

Thursday 26th March 2026 10.00am – 3.00pm
Cheddon Fitzpaine Memorial Hall, Taunton, TA2 8JY



Join us on a journey of interior design for the home from the Victorian era to the present day.

William Morris was a revolutionary force in Victorian Britain. His work dramatically changed the fashions and ideologies of the era, and he remains as influential and important today as he was in his own time.

Frank Lloyd Wright devoted his life to promoting architecture as “the great mother art, behind which all others are definitely, distinctly and inevitably related. Throughout his career Wright would experiment with various ways to harness the advantages of machine production to design quality, affordable housing and beautifully designed furnishings for large numbers of people.

IKEA reaches millions of hearts and homes all over the world. And it all began in a small Swedish town in the 1940s, with an enterprising boy who hoped to be able to create a better life for people everywhere.

Stephen Taylor studied Fine Art at Leeds University with T.J. Clark and was taught observational painting by Paul Gopal Choudhury. He studied John Constable at Essex University and as a visiting student at Yale. After two years as resident artist at Felsted School, Stephen turned from theory to practice while teaching art history part-time and leading the painting courses at The Open College of The Arts. He now has pictures in private collections world-wide and his book Oak: One tree, three years, fifty paintings was featured in the Guardian and was an Oprah Winfrey Book of the Week.

Programme

Registration and Coffee 10.00am

Session One 10.30am – 11.30am

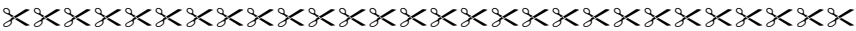
William Morris modernised craft for Victorian taste. Function, simplicity and beauty were aligned, and a feeling for how things were made became something to value. But the price of the fashionable new artisan furnishings was beyond the pocket of artisans.

Session Two 11.50am – 12.50pm

Frank Lloyd Wright's 1901 lecture *Craft and the Machine* sought to reconcile Morris's craft values with modern materials and industrial production, and the talk traces this idea in Wright's early work and the pioneer designs of the Vienna Secession. This approach became mainstream in the 30s as interiors throughout society began to reflect new versions of 'The Modern'.

Session Three 2.00pm – 3.00pm

Scandinavian design in the 40s and 50s emphatically re-introduced natural materials to modernist taste, solving Morris's problem of how to make craft values available to the masses. Ikea was born.



Special Interest Day Thursday 26th March 2026

Cost £42 including coffee on arrival, buffet lunch and a glass of wine

Guests who are not members of our society are very welcome.

**Please return this form to The Arts Society Taunton to: Margaret Way,
Special Interest Day Organiser, The Weavers, Church Lane, Kingston St. Mary, Taunton TA2 8HR or
email your booking details to Margaret Way at: Specialinterest.taunton@theartsociety.org**

Payment by BACS is preferred:

Account name: The Arts Society Taunton, account number - 35802160. Sort code 30-98-45. Ref: 'your name'

Or please post a cheque to Margaret Way at the postal address shown above

Name

Telephone No..... Email

Number of places at £42 Total £.....

Names of other attendees.....

Dietary requirements for all attendees