Anglepoise & Lightbulbs

Designed by George Carwardine in the 1930s, the Anglepoise lamp is an iconic example of functional design. Its innovative spring mechanism allows for unparalleled flexibility and balance, directing light precisely where needed.

The lightbulb, a seemingly everyday object, embodies ingenious design, from early carbon filaments to today's energy-efficient LEDs. The first energy-saving light bulbs widely available were Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs), emerging in the 1980s as a more efficient alternative to traditional incandescent bulbs.

Anglepoise Original 1227



Designed by the automotive engineer George Carwardine, the Anglepoise lamp is based on the ability of a new type of spring and lever mechanism to remain in position after being moved in any direction. Efficient and energy-saving, the Anglepoise has remained in production ever since.

Incandescent Light Bulb, 2025



GLS 60W with an Edison screw/ES 27 screw base.

Energy-saving Spiral Light Bulb, 2025



240V, 25W with an E27 screw base.

Plumen 001 Light Bulb, 2025



The first designer energy-saving light bulb, created by product design studio Hulger and product designer Samuel Wilkinson, who wanted to find a way to make an everyday item beautiful.

Cameras

Early portable cameras, including the Kodak Brownie, helped make photography accessible to the masses beyond professional studios. Film reigned supreme for decades and even when developing processes became faster, you still had to wait to see the final pictures.

The digital revolution offered instant feedback and near-limitless storage. Now, our phones house powerful lenses and software, enabling us to share our visual narratives in real-time. This reflects not just technological progress, but also our changing relationship with memory, communication and self-expression.

Kodak Six-20 Folding Brownie



This second model of the Six-20 Folding Brownie was made from 1948-1954. It took 8 exposures, 2 ¼ x 3 ¼ inch size, on 620 film.

Kodak Brownie Reflex Synchro Model



This type of camera was made in America from 1941 to 1952 and in England from 1946 to 1960.
It took 12 exposures, 1 5/8 x 1 5/8 inch size, on no. 127 film.

Kodak Brownie 127



This third model was produced from 1965 to 1967. It was redesigned with a more angular plastic moulded body. As with earlier models, it took 1 ⅝ x 1 ⅝ inch exposures on a 127 film.

Miranda Sensoret



This was designed as a compact 35mm snapshot camera with a fixed lens and programmed shutter speeds and an external flash could be fitted. It is typical of the small rangefinder cameras which were popular in the early 1970s.

Telephone

Telephone design has been informed by technological advancements and changing consumer needs. Early devices required a connection to a telephone exchange to make calls and their design emphasised their functionality. By the mid-20th century, they became streamlined and mass-produced, but remained cumbersome and firmly tethered by a cable in hallways and living rooms.

The advent of mobile technology revolutionised design and prioritised portability. Today, despite the multifaceted functionality of a phone, its design has become increasingly minimal.

Black Combination Telephone

First produced in 1938



A GPO (General Post Office) ‘Pyramid’ telephone, which combines a telephone (No. 248) fitted on top of a bell set (No. 44). It was commonly used in offices to facilitate basic internal communications on shared lines.

Green GPO 330 Telephone, 1954



The GPO 330L was a tabletop rotary telephone designed for use with call exchange systems, often found in homes or offices where the line was shared. It features a call exchange button, which would have been used to switch calls between shared lines and a drawer for notes or numbers. These phones were part of the 300 series and were made of Bakelite.

Nokia 2146 , released 1997

The Nokia 2146, released in 1997, was a dual-band GSM phone popular in the UK on the Orange network. Its user-friendly interface and retractable antenna made it a reliable device for communication and SMS messaging.



Nokia 8250, released 2001

This phone featured a distinctive design and blue backlight and offered customisable profiles and a ringtone composer, marking a step in mobile personalisation.



VK 530 , released 2004



This early 2000s ‘clamshell’ phone from VK Mobile featured a compact design and basic functionalities like calls and SMS. Marketed as a stylish accessory, it was produced in a range of colours and included the unique feature of a mirror.

iPhone 13, 2021



On January 9, 2007, Apple launched the iPhone. In the press release, they wrote, ‘Apple® today introduced iPhone, combining three products — a revolutionary mobile phone, a widescreen iPod® with touch controls, and a breakthrough Internet communications device with desktop-class email, web browsing, searching and maps—into one small and lightweight handheld device.’

Typewriter / Keyboard

Early typewriters emerged in the 19th century, with the first commercially successful typewriter being introduced in 1873 and featuring the QWERTY keyboard. With their individual keys striking inked ribbons, manual typewriters revolutionised both personal and business communications, but they were bulky and noisy.

The advent of electronics paved the way for electronic typewriters and laptops. With an integrated or wireless keyboard and a compact design, they replaced heavy mechanisms with silent electronic switches and displayed text instantly on a screen.

Corona Typewriter No.3, 1917



The Corona Three is a folding typewriter was manufactured in Groton, New York from 1912 until 1941. The typewriter's platen and carriage can fold down to rest on the keyboard, making it compact and it fits into a portable case. This feature made it a particular favourite amongst writers and journalists.

Oliver No. 9 Typewriter



The Oliver Typewriter, with its distinctive 'visible print' design, allowed typists to see their work as they typed. Its down-striking type bars, resembling 'batwings', made it a unique and popular machine from the late 19th to the early 20th century

The Oliver Typewriter Company was founded in 1895 in Chicago, Illinois. A couple of years later, the first British branch of the company was established at 75 Queen Victoria Street, London's 'Typewriter Row'.

Pencils

Slate tablets with writing sticks were a common feature in schools, particularly in the 19th and early 20th centuries. This gradually gave way to exercise books and pencils and today, interactive screens and computer tablets.

The graphite pencil is still an everyday object with a casing of thin wood, usually hexagonal in section, but sometimes cylindrical or triangular. In 1822, the first modern mechanical pencil was patented in Britain. The design used a twist or slide mechanism to propel the lead forward. Today, mechanical pencils come in various lead sizes for different tasks, from fine drafting to general writing.

Writing Slate and Writing Stick

Used at East Meon School, which was built in 1845



Silver Propelling Pencil



Mechanical Pencil

Brushed stainless steel 0.5mm pencil.



Minibrix Pencil

Minibrix were interlockable rubber bricks made near Petersfield between 1935 and 1976. Members of The Minibuilders Club received a badge, a certificate and a special, triangular section pencil.



Pens

Early pens, such as reed pens, quill pens or dip pens, held a small amount of ink on a nib or in a small void or cavity that had to be refilled by dipping the tip of the pen into an inkwell. This design changed in the 19th century with the mass production of metal nibs and the popularity of the fountain pen, which had a self-contained ink reservoir.

By the mid-20th century, the innovative ballpoint prioritised convenience and affordability with its rolling ball and viscous ink. They have replaced fountain pens as the most common tool for everyday writing.

Parker 51 Fountain Pen

Launched in 1941, the Parker 51 was celebrated for its hooded nip, designed to protect the point and prevent drying out, ensuring its smooth writing and reliability.



Parker 25 Ballpoint Pen

The Parker 25 ballpoint, introduced in 1975, offered a modern, robust design with a stainless steel body and distinctive squared clip. Aimed at a younger market, it became a popular writing tool.



BIC Biro

The BIC Cristal, introduced in 1950 by Marcel Bich, helped change the pen market from fountain pens to ballpoint. Its transparent hexagonal barrel, tungsten carbide ballpoint and vented cap represent everyday functionality.



Music / Headphones

From the turntable to music on-demand, there has been a pivotal shift in how we listen to music. The record player was designed for communal listening in a fixed location. Its size and delicate vinyl records limited its mobility.

The first Sony Walkman was released in 1979. It was small, lightweight and portable. This also changed the design of headphones, which had previously only been worn while stationary. The portable cassette player gave way to compact disc players and MP3 players.

Today, playing music on your phone offers portable entertainment so you can enjoy tunes, podcasts and audiobooks wherever you go.

Decca 205 Deram, launched in 1964



The Decca 205 Deram portable record player was a moment when music became increasingly mobile. Featuring Decca's acclaimed Deram ceramic cartridge, known for its impressive sound quality, this player offered a relatively accessible way to enjoy vinyl records. Its portable design, built-in speaker and carrying handle allowed music lovers to take their favourite sounds beyond the living room.

Sony WM-FX141, mid-1990s with headphones



The Sony WM-FX141, a popular personal stereo from the mid-1990s, combined portable cassette playback with an integrated FM/AM radio tuner.

Sony Walkman D-EJ360, launched 2002



The Sony CD Walkman D-EJ360 is a portable compact disc player. The player is also equipped with Sony's popular G-Protection technology, which prevents skipping and other playback interruptions caused by movement or vibrations.

Pioneer SE-2 Open Air Headphones, 1980

The SE-2 featured a lightweight construction with breathable earpads, prioritising comfort for extended use. The open-back design aimed to deliver a wider soundstage and minimise the feeling of enclosed sound. This design philosophy marked a significant evolution in headphone technology, emphasising acoustic transparency and user comfort.



Apple iPod Classic, 2004

In July 2004, Apple introduced the Fourth Generation iPod with the Click Wheel feature and Shuffle Songs, a new command in the main menu that gave users instant access to an exciting new way to listen to their music library. Smaller in design, it could store up to 10,000 songs.



Wristwatch

Evolving from pocket watches, the wristwatch gained popularity in the early 20th century for practicality, especially in aviation and military use. Its design prioritises wearability and legibility on the wrist.

Innovations in materials, movements and aesthetics have transformed it from a functional tool to a personal statement of style and status, seamlessly integrating into daily life

Pocket Watch with Key and Wooden Holder and Travel Case
early 20th century



The dial is white enamel with black Roman numerals and decorated with a leaf pattern. The key is size 4, with a floral motif on the back. It is accompanied by a wooden holder and travel case. This object is associated with the artist Flora Twort and her home at Church Path, Petersfield.

Ingraham Wristwatch, 1940s



A popular brand, Ingraham produced affordable timepieces during this era, often featuring simple, functional designs and durable movements, reflecting wartime material restrictions and a focus on practicality.

Timex Q LCA

The 1980s Timex Q LCA (Liquid Crystal Analogue) was a notable digital watch characterised by its unique dual display, combining a digital representation of analogue hands with a standard digital readout. This offered a distinctive and ‘techy’ aesthetic of the era.



Don’t Be Too Late Swatch Watch

Swatch watches launched in 1983. Conceived as a stylish ‘second watch’, Swatch embraced bold colours, playful designs and collaboration with artists. Their every-changing collections and limited editions made them instantly collectable.



Casio No. 4713

Casio produced their first digital quartz watch in 1974. The became renowned for their reliability and functionality. The Casio 4713 includes a stopwatch, alarm, calendar and uses a solar charging system.



Television

Since the late 1930s, television sets have been a focal point in our lives and living rooms. Early televisions were typically large and boxy with small screens and an external antenna, often called ‘Rabbit Ears’.

The 21st century has witnessed a dramatic transformation in television design, moving from bulky objects to sleek, thin and large flat-panels. However, the internet has significantly changed our relationship with television and, in turn, its design. We now consume media on many mobile devices and for many, the television set has lost its traditional place within the home.

Teleton Television Receiver, Model T-121



The Teleton T-121 is a portable monochrome television receiver from the 1970s. It offered viewers on-the-go access to broadcast entertainment. As a product of Mitsubishi Electric distributed under the Teleton brand in Europe, this compact set reflects the era's growing desire for personal and portable electronics.

Sunglasses

From humble beginnings as protective eyewear, sunglasses have blended fashion and function. Initially designed to shield the eyes from harsh sunlight, particularly for drivers and pilots, they soon transcended their utilitarian purpose to become a glamorous style statement.

Technological advancements have further transformed sunglasses, with polarised lenses reducing glare and UV coatings offering crucial eye protection. Today, many shapes, materials and tints cater to diverse tastes and activities, solidifying sunglasses as an indispensable accessory in the modern world.

Ray-Ban Aviator Sunglasses, 2020s

Established in 1937, Ray-Ban became iconic with its Aviator sunglasses, initially designed for US Air Force pilots. Known for quality lenses and enduring design, Ray-Bans are associated with fashion and style.



Sunglasses, 1950s

Post-war optimism fueled bold eyewear designs. Cat-eye frames were popularised by Hollywood stars, became a fashion icon. New plastics allowed for vibrant colors and adventurous shapes, transforming their design.



Sunglasses, 1970s

The 1970s witnessed the rise of dramatically oversized sunglasses, a bold fashion statement reflecting the era's glamour and individuality. Inspired by icons and technological advancements in lightweight plastics, these large frames with tinted lenses became a must-have accessory.



Shoes

The silhouette of women's shoes has evolved through history, reflecting shifting social norms, technological advancements and aesthetic ideals.

The 20th century witnessed an explosion of styles, from the elegant curves of Art Deco
heels to the platforms and wedges of the 1970s. Today, a diverse range of shapes exists, from practical flats and sneakers to towering stilettos, each offering a unique expression of fashion, function and the wearer's identity.

Blue Suede Shoes , 1930s



Suede became a favoured material for women's shoes in the 1930s, offering a softer alternative to traditional leather. These shoes came in various styles, including oxfords, T-straps, and pumps. Comfort and durability were key during the period, yet suede allowed elegant designs and darker, practical colours.

Brown Leather Shoes, 1940s



Stamped in imitation snakeskin and marked with ‘Cockaynes’, a department store in Sheffield.

Black Utility Clothing Scheme Shoes, 1940s

The Utility Clothing Scheme (1941–1952) in wartime Britain ensured fair access to affordable, quality clothing through standardized designs and the distinctive CC41 mark.



Black Leather Slingback Shoes, 1950s

A timeless classic, the slingback dates to the 1940s and was later combined with the stiletto heel a decade later in the 1950s.



Red Plastic Slingback Shoes, 1960s

Marked ‘Lotus’. Lotus Ltd., were a well-known shoe manufacturer in Stafford. In the 1960s, plastic shoes, gained popularity as a fashionable and practical alternative to leather shoes. This allowed for a wider range of styles and colours, especially those that matched the bright and colourful fashions of the period.



Parasol and Umbrellas

Umbrellas and parasols have been used since ancient times. Historically associated with protection from the sun and considered a feminine accessory, this changed in 18th-century England, when Jonas Hanway was the first man to use an umbrella in the rainy streets of London. The 19th century saw advancements in production and more durable, water-resistant materials, making the umbrella a ubiquitous everyday item.

Over time, the design has remained largely unchanged, with a collapsible canopy stretched over a ribbed frame attached to a central shaft with a handle.

Parasol with Wooden Handle , 1890s

Fabric parasol would have been carried by ladies of the era, to provide protection from the sun while also serving as a subtle accessory, integral to outdoor appearances and social interactions.



Umbrella, 2025

Breaking from traditional opaque designs, this transparent umbrella represents a modern approach to rain protection. Its clear canopy highlights a shift towards lighter materials and a desire for unobstructed visibility.

