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## COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS: BULGARIAN FURNITURE FROM THE EARLY RENAISSANCE AND WORLD EXAMPLES UP TO THE PRESENT

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### ABSTRACT

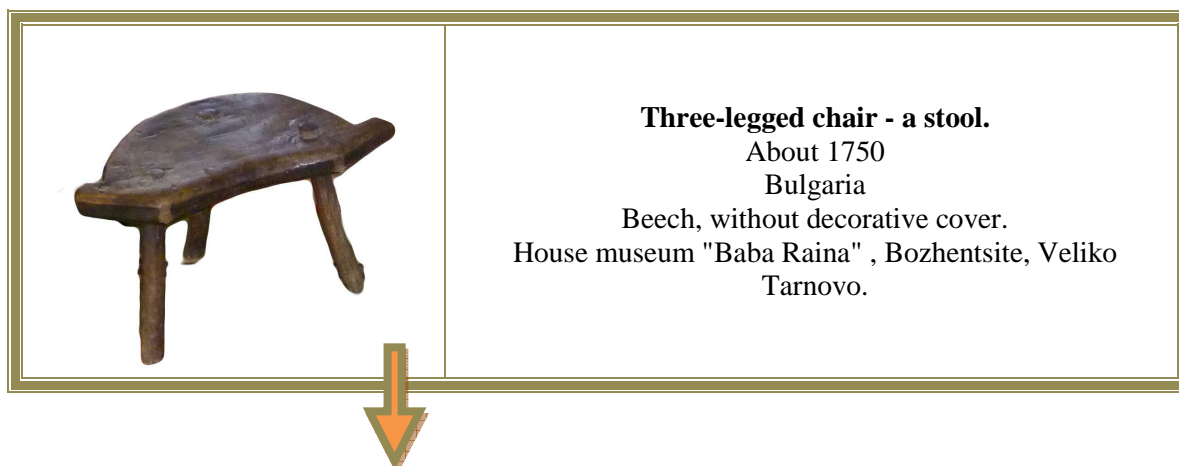
During the early period of the Bulgarian National Revival, there is an emergence of forms of furniture that we use as a basis even today in current styles. The aim of the research is to demonstrate, through a comparative analysis, the development of these original structures. The models pass through certain changes in time and habitat, but the idea has always remained as a basis. In linear silhouette precise examples are displaced from Bulgarian furniture heritage and world-wide famous models of the furniture development.

**Keywords:** furniture, Renaissance furniture, styles, modern furniture, heritage

### 1. INTRODUCTION

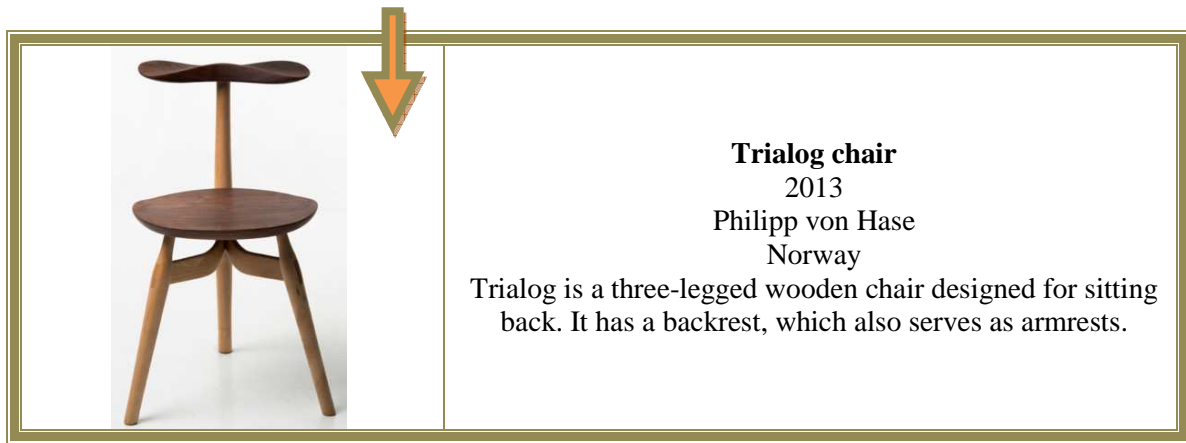
The study begins its launch by selecting from the studied Bulgarian furniture in the early years of the Renaissance. In the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century to the end, Bulgaria does not have a wide selection of furniture in the interior of wooden homes. We have considered four primary-function items of furniture of our country and they are subject of a comparative analysis from among hundreds of examples of furniture which have been developed in the world since then. The aim is to show the stability of the forms in the design.

The first specific item of the Bulgarian Revival furniture is an important element of the interior - a stool. This old-time furniture is oval (kidney-like) and with small ears for easy carrying it (in some cases), the legs are straight or curved with circular cut, and angled at the seat. The Bulgarian artist often makes a shallow carving in the center of the seat with a composition suggestive the orientation and face area. Often the seat has a concave profile matching the curves of the body. To make it, most often wood from oak and beech is used. Dimensions are consistent with the functional dimensions of its owners. Very often making them was performed by the owners themselves.



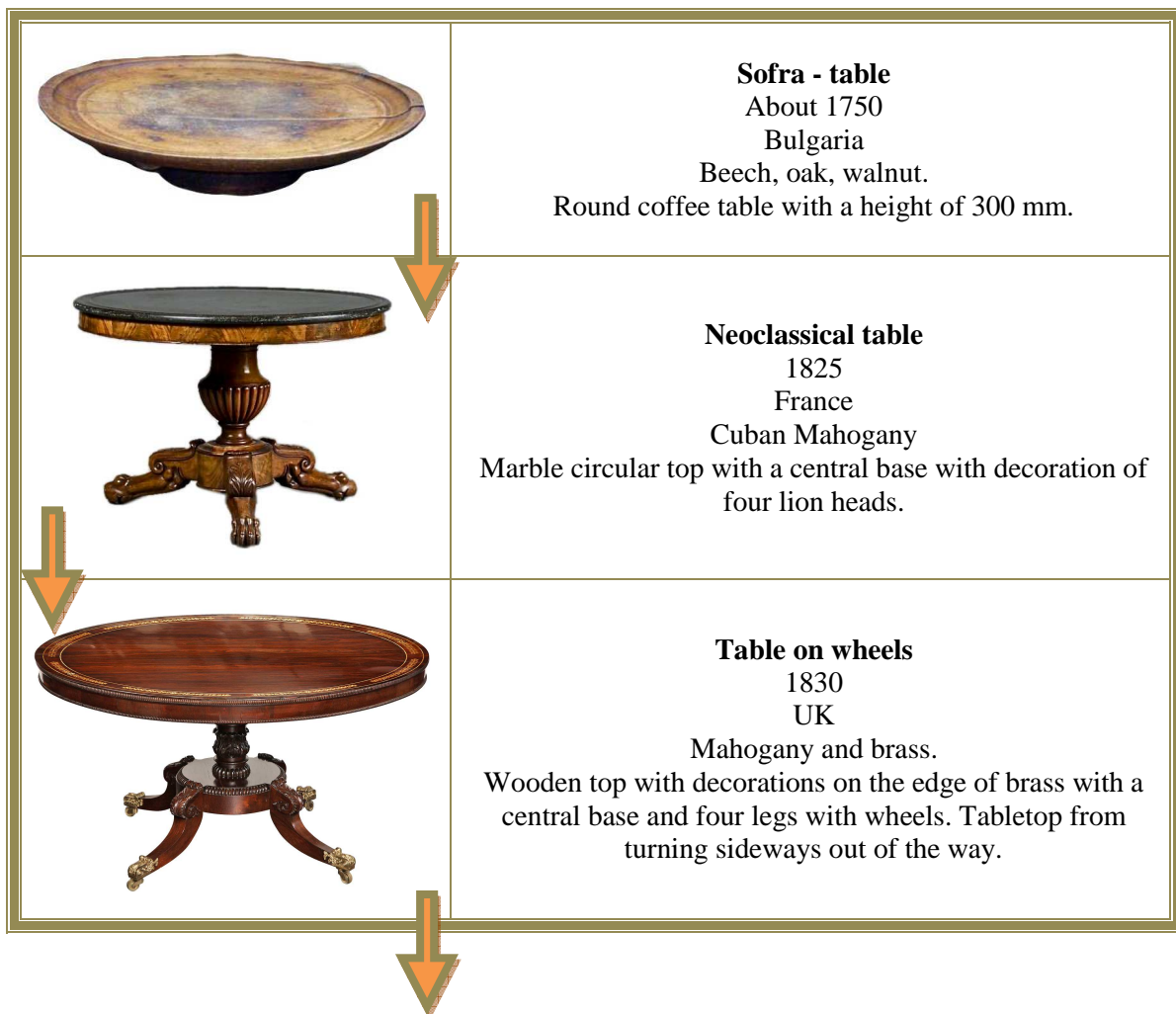
	<p><b>Fantail Windsor chair</b> About 1773 UK Made for Lord Clive of India during the recovery of Claremont in Surrey. Ash, elm, walnut. Legs are machined with a circular cross section and are stuck in the seat angle.</p>
	<p><b>Classic Windsor chair.</b> Around 1770 - 1790 Britain, Windsor, County Buckingham. Oak, ash, walnut, maple, elm. Early examples were painted in dark color, but later were somehow reduced. Sticking the legs is a method which is no longer visible in the seat.</p>
	<p><b>Cherrywood three-legged stool.</b> About 1903 Designed by Adolf Loos. UK, London. Cherry. The seat is in two parts with three curved legs with a rectangular section (H 194 mm).</p>
	<p><b>Chair 60</b> 1933 Alvar Aalto - Artek Studio Company. Finland. Birch. The simple idea behind this now-classic chair is based on three curved legs and a round seat.</p>
	<p><b>Shell</b> 1963 Hans Wegner Three-legged chair made of plywood covered with a beautiful walnut trim. The backrest and seat cushions are upholstered with cowhide, adding a unique and modern style.</p>


	<p><b>Radice</b> 1980 Italy Sam Hecht – Company Mattiazzi Oak</p> <p>The front half is a traditional 4 - legged chair with one leg back, no screws or metal fittings. The back is small and allows for attachment of a coat or a bag. Color stain options Radice are based on the cycle of autumn leaves. Dimensions: H 650 mm or 470mm.</p>
	<p><b>Tapas dining chair</b> 2008 Matthew Hilton Company De La Espada - Spain</p> <p>American black walnut or American white oak and beech plywood with walnut or oak veneer. The unique shape of the seat shell set on three legs makes a compact piece of furniture that does not dominate the space around the table and provides superior balance on any terrain.</p>
	<p><b>Hummer</b> 2011 Konstantin Achkov Bulgaria plywood</p> <p>Joints between the elements is the principle of jamming and overall assemble is easy and fast. The design of hummingbirds is an element of strong carrying handle, which has a restrictive function - a kind of back. The handle allows for easy removal of the seat. The slope of the two elements of the seat to the medium gives ergonomic convenience.</p>
	<p><b>Cruz chair</b> 2011 Martin Goebel Company Goebel &amp; Co. U.S.</p> <p>White oak, cherry, black walnut. Furniture piece with historical roots.</p>


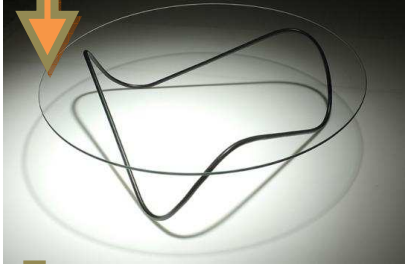




As it can be seen from the chairs study, the natural material is kept in its structure, small size, ease of implementation, the absolute functionality and the lack of decoration.

The next area is the low round table – “sofra”. They are made in two ways: Turning wood or wrought iron. Depending on the wood type, the size is changed. In oak and cherry it reaches 400 to 600 mm in diameter and the circumference rise is slightly edged. The legs are like three-legged stool. It is portable, and when is not in use, it is placed against the wall faces. The furniture also expressed the power of functional thought of the Bulgarians. Lifestyle and culture are initiators of this form.



	<p><b>Napoleon table style</b> 1870 Empire style France Mahogany with gold. Large round shallow dish atop an image portrait of Emperor Napoleon I, after the original portrait of Gérard François. It is made out of 12 small plates which are mounted in the frame with gilt bronze ornaments separated by imperial hawks and presented as a clock.</p>
	<p><b>Table Tonet</b> 1900 Michael Tonet Company Brothers Tonet London, UK</p>
	<p><b>Additional table</b> 1905 Josef Hoffmann Vienna, Austria Mahogany Characteristic of this style are the decorative repeating balls in the legs.</p>
	<p><b>Bauhaus table</b> 1927 Marcel Breuer For Bauhaus - Tekta, Germany Steel and glass. The design is classic Bauhaus tubular steel with crystal glass top.</p>
	<p><b>Bauhaus table</b> 1945 Charles Eames For Bauhaus - Italy Ash plywood and metal.</p>

	<p><b>Tulip table</b> 1956 Eero Saarinen U.S. Cast aluminum.</p>
	<p><b>Coffee table</b> 1989 Rafic Farah For Espace - Brazil Glass and steel. The base is made of stainless steel or carbon steel with black electrostatic painting. Inspired by oriental brushstroke, meandering on a continuous structure, but only three points of contact and three points on the glass surface.</p>
	<p><b>Mig small table</b> 2008 Antonio Citterio About Us Fleksform - Italy Walnut.</p>
	<p><b>Branch table</b> 2013 Jakob Wagner Company Cappellini - Italy Aluminum, glass or MDF. A single component repeated 3, 4 or 5 times, to create a family of clones. Dimensions are designed so that 2 people can sit between each leg and the table can be for people 4-6-8-10-12.</p>

Tables retain the shape of the circular plate, as the most functional structure for interior in feeding and resting. The difference in development has occurred in height, which gradually rises and today again declines. Here, however, the tables are divided into two functional heights: one is the dining table that is high and the second - for coffee or a holiday, which is similar in height to the source. Of course the development of more new technologies and materials, the tables acquire exclusive forms basically thanks to them.

The next group we will look at is inspired by the coaches - bench or bed. It is a sofa, wooden bed, back to the wall with a height of 400 - 600 mm used for sitting or lying. Usually covered with rugs and decorated with pillows. Seat reaches the height of the railing inside the window. At one end there is a box for notebooks. In some regions, this couch is large and occupies almost half of the room. It is generally used for sleeping and for the whole family.





**Bench - sofa**

About 1855  
"Oslekov house"  
Koprivshitsa, Bulgaria  
Beech

Low furniture along the walls of the room covered with blankets and pillows.



**Sofa**

About 1760  
Thomas Chippendale style - English Rococo  
Under George II  
Ex Collection Jeff and Margaret Penn, Chinqua Penn  
Historic House.  
UK

Walnut and upholstery  
Dimensions: 2290 mm / 810 mm / 1070 mm



**Chesterfield sofa**

About 1780  
UK city Chesterfield  
Victorian  
Wood and upholstery  
Created Count of Chesterfield Philip Stanhope.



**Mahogany sofa**

1800  
Robert Adam style - English classicism in the time of  
George III  
UK, London.  
Mahogany trim.  
Covered in burgundy cloth with backs and two hinged  
cushions.

Dimensions: 930 mm / 1830 mm / 725 mm



**Sofa Bidermaer**

1860  
Sweden  
Mahogany, birch, upholstery  
It has wide, curved arms and a fan where squishy pair  
of roller bags are placed.  
Dimensions: 2270 mm / 700 mm / 440 mm



**Sofa "Kubus"**

1910  
Josef Hoffmann  
Austria  
Upholstery and rigid frame  
Two-seater sofa size length 1660 mm and height 770  
mm.

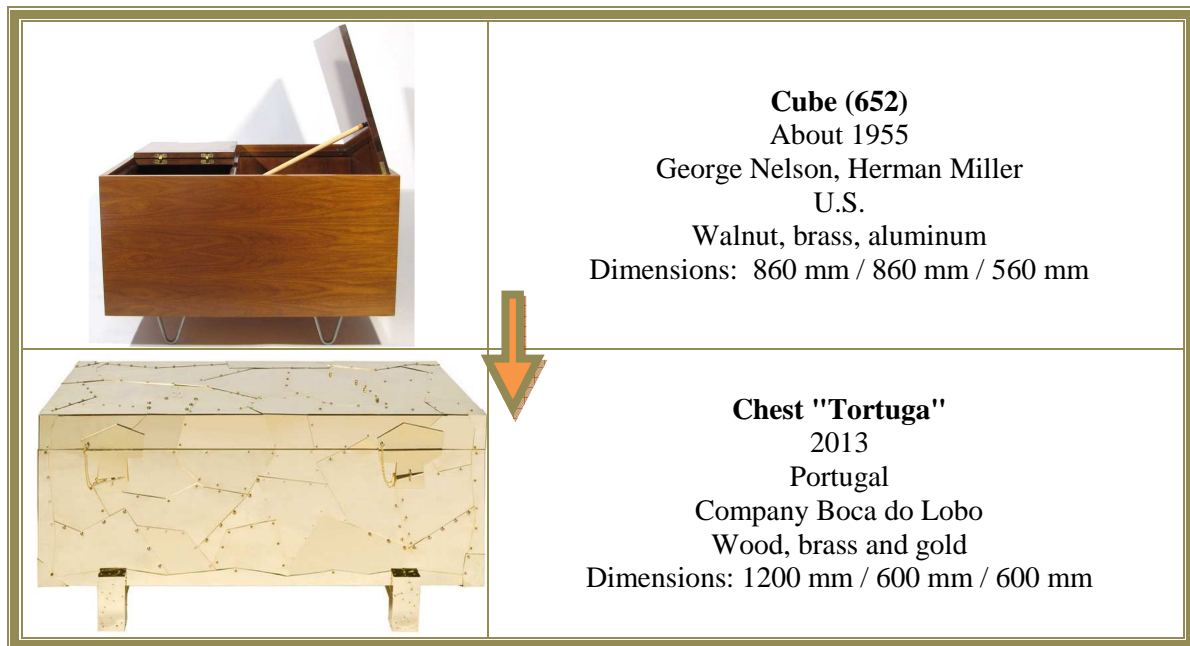
	<p><b>Sofa "Boca" (mouth)</b>                      1936                      Salvador Dali                      Spain                      The sofa has had several names over the years - first of Mae West Sofa and later Sofa Bocca or Marilyn Bocca Sofa.</p>
	<p><b>Sofa "knoll"</b>                      1954                      Knoll Bassett                      Italy, Florence                      Steel frame and upholstery                      It consists of a single, fully tufted seat and back covering attached to an open metal frame and legs.</p>
	<p><b>Sofa "Osaka"</b>                      1967                      Pierre Paulin                      Company La Cividina.                      France                      Steel frame and upholstery                      Osaka is meandering sofa composed of three strands held together by a special steel frame covered with fabric "stretch" that perfectly follows your curves.</p>
	<p><b>Sofa "Mach Jong"</b>                      1999                      Hans Hopfner                      Company Roche Bobis                      France                      Upholstery and foam                      Modular sofa - with a very low stool height nasedene that can form endless compositions.</p>
	<p><b>Sofa "Nils"</b>                      2013                      Didier Gomez                      Company Ligne Roset.                      Germany                      Trim and base                      Dimensions: 1860 mm / 640 mm / 350 mm</p>

The sofa dates back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century, but it still works great in all living areas of the home, from the living room, to the master bedroom to the basement and so on. Traditional Bulgarian bench has basis for development of this functional furniture. In the beginning it was placed near the wall, and later it started moving into the interior as the central figure. The sitting height varied over the years, but future trends again aim at low, multifunctional dimensions of the furniture. People prefer bench, due to the overall functionality of the sofa. Mandatory goods until now have been textiles and pillows in different sizes. The trends reached even dimensions of the furniture.

The functions of storage chest is widespread in Bulgaria from the period of 1750. It serves for storage of bedding and rectangular stripped decorations, subject to pure functionality. It is made of wooden planks, with no metal compounds. It is usually placed in the bedroom and serves as a storage for textiles. This is the next group which is taken into consideration for comparison. It is worth mentioning that the cap opens up, in order to reach the contents.



	<p><b>Coffer</b> about 1770 Bulgaria, House Museum "Baba Raina" Bozhentsite, Veliko Tarnovo Beech, without decorative cover with carved figures. Dimensions: 800 mm / 800 mm / 650 mm</p>
	<p><b>Coffer</b> About 1763 Thomas Chippendale UK, London Mahogany The thread on the front panel is very similar to the one of the "two design Chest," which is shown in the third edition of Thomas Chippendale of Gentleman, 1763</p>
	<p><b>Chest (mule chest)</b> 1800 Georgian style UK, London Oak Furniture builds small foot at the bottom, there are two small drawers with lock and the upper valve cover with a key.</p>
	<p><b>Coffer</b> <b>1870</b> Imitating the style of Henry II France Walnut Dimensions: 1090 mm / 570 mm / 700 mm Provides a wonderful surface for table simultaneously keeping up with timeless style.</p>
	<p><b>Coffer</b> 1901 Josef Hoffmann Company Portios and Fix Vienna, Austria Oak and mosaic Dimensions: 850 mm / 460 mm / 740 mm</p>



As we can see from the study, the chest experienced severe years of technical and functional development in the interior. It also retained the shape of paralleliped and wood to make in. The complexity of the decoration depends on the style in which it is designed.

## 2. CONCLUSION

Examine major forms in Bulgarian furniture gives us a good basis for developing the design. After a comparative analysis, we can say that the shape of the design is stable and maintained even after technological and material development in the world. The form has been largely retained material for production. There is also a back to the basic shapes, sizes, and lack of decoration in this furniture. The design is subject to absolute functionality.

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