



Corporate

Joining as a corporate
member or supporter



The Furniture Makers' Company
the furnishing industry's charity



The Confederation Lunch at the Houses of Parliament

The Furniture Makers' Company The City of London livery company and charity for the furnishing industry

Our role is to sustain a thriving British furnishing industry with a talented workforce delivering high-quality products, which supports those in need from within its ranks and those who have served it in the past.

We achieve this through three pillars of activity – education, excellence and welfare.

Education

We have developed a comprehensive and enriching education programme to develop, steward and inspire the next generation of designers, makers, retailers and leaders to make it stronger and more prosperous than ever before.

Excellence

We recognise excellence and the highest standards in design and production through our coveted Guild Marks - the Bespoke Guild Mark, Design Guild Mark and Manufacturing Guild Mark.

Each Mark raises the profile of British design, innovation and manufacturing, helping to build a thriving industry for the future, as well as bringing prestige and publicity for award holders.

Welfare

Our charity has been supporting the welfare of employees in the UK furnishing industry for more than 120 years, through good economic times and bad.

We are here to help anyone from the industry, past or present, who has fallen on tough times by awarding financial grants.

About us

Why join?

The Furniture Makers' Company is a modern livery company whose membership comprises of individuals and businesses that make up the diverse, vibrant and creative UK furnishing industry. It is a force for good and our members are the fuel that fire the engine and help us fulfill our vision. On joining The Furniture Makers' Company, you will be warmly welcomed into a friendly and supportive community of furnishing industry colleagues and professionals.

What is a livery company?

City of London livery companies comprise London's ancient and modern trade associations and guilds. The earliest guilds date back to the 12th century when people working in the same craft in London grouped together to regulate competition within their trade and maintain high standards.

The term livery company was introduced when guilds started introducing their own clothing and regalia – or livery – to distinguish their members from other guilds. Today, there are 111 liveries that support matters of trade, education, charity and fellowship. They also play an integral part in the City's governance.

The Furniture Makers' Company was founded as a guild in 1951 and granted livery status in 1963, becoming the 83rd livery company of the City of London and only the sixth to be formed since the reign of Queen Anne ended in 1714. It was incorporated by Royal Charter in 2013.

Who can join?

Unlike some other livery companies, all our members must be associated in some way to the furniture and furnishing industry, including beds, fabrics, kitchens, carpets and floor coverings. This helps us maintain industry relevance and facilitate meaningful business connections among our membership.

The company you work at could be a manufacturer, distributor, retailer, supplier, design studio or service provider – all are welcome. We encourage and welcome diversity – sectoral and cultural – within our membership and would be happy to hear from you.

What our members tend to have in common is a passion for the furnishing industry, a philanthropic desire to 'give back' and a wish to meet and converse with like-minded individuals.



Exclusive events are organised for corporates throughout the year



Guests at our popular fundraiser Big Shots

Benefits What's in it for you?

City of London livery companies are long standing, respected institutions and joining a livery brings with it a wealth of opportunity to be part of a unique and historic British institution and give back to a sector which has given you a career.

The specific benefits you receive will depend on the level of involvement you undertake. As with all memberships, what you get out will be determined by what you put in.

Develop your network

We have a full calendar of social events, business orientated seminars and activities taking place across the country that provide members the opportunity to meet, get fresh perspectives, widen their knowledge and help them to develop professionally and personally.

Raise your profile

We are the furniture and furnishing industry's preeminent organisation and membership brings kudos and regard, elevating you and your business' brand image. Membership also provides superb PR opportunities for companies to shout about.

Get access to exclusive events

We organise a wide variety of formal and informal events during the year, providing members the opportunity to meet, dine and share unforgettable experiences in some of the City of London's historic and magnificent venues, including the annual dinner at the Mansion House celebrating the installation of the new Master.

Fun and fellowship

The livery offers the opportunity to socialise on a regular basis and nurture lifelong friendships and invaluable business relationships.

Give something back

As the charity for the furnishing industry, we offer members the opportunity to make a positive impact on the industry and fulfill environmental, social and governance objectives, by supporting our charitable activities. You can also collaborate with other members through rewarding committee work that support our many initiatives in the areas of education, excellence and welfare.

Exclusive discount to hire Furniture Makers' Hall

Tucked away between Liverpool St, Moorgate and Bank underground stations is the heart and home of the Furniture Makers: Furniture Makers' Hall. The stunning venue has three dedicated spaces with state-of-the-art audio-visual facilities that cater for business meetings to grand dinners. Members get preferential room hire and catering package rates.

Membership

Joining as a corporate member or supporter

Our corporate members and corporate supporters represent some of the most significant companies from across all sectors within the UK furnishing industry. It is through their generosity that we can ensure we have a robust and thriving industry, where we always look after our own, where developing young talent and embedding skills are paramount and excellence is the norm.

Joining as a corporate is an opportunity for your business to show the world that you are a true leader in the trade.

We understand that businesses come in all shapes and sizes and therefore have two corporate categories to choose from: corporate member (recommended for mid to high turnover businesses) and corporate supporter (recommended for small turnover businesses).

On expressing your desire to become a corporate member or corporate supporter, we will arrange a meeting with you so we can find out more about your business and what you want to achieve from membership. This is also your opportunity to find out more about our organisation and ask any questions you have.

If all goes well, we will then arrange for the representatives from your company that you choose to join as a corporate liveryman or corporate freeman to attend a formal admission ceremony at Furniture Makers' Hall. During the ceremony you will sign the declaration and be personally welcomed into the livery by the Master and wardens.

CORPORATE BENEFITS

In addition to the aforementioned benefits, corporates receive the following:

Corporate member benefits

- Three company representatives admitted as corporate liverymen
- Three tickets to the Installation or Royal Charter Dinner each year
- One day's use of all function rooms at Furniture Makers' Hall annually
- Invitation to the Confederation Lunch and Best Practice Days
- Logo on plaque in Furniture Makers' Hall, on website and in yearbook.

Corporate supporter benefits

- One company representative admitted as corporate freeman
- One ticket to the Installation or Royal Charter Dinner each year
- Half a day's use of the Mike Claire Room at Furniture Makers' Hall annually
- Invitation to the Confederation Lunch and Best Practice Days
- Logo on website and in yearbook.



The annual Royal Charter Dinner



*Corporate liverymen being admitted
at Furniture Makers' Hall*

Next step Contact us

We understand that you may have many questions about what joining as a corporate member or supporter entails so the first thing we recommend is organising a meeting with our CEO and corporate membership chairman.

Membership rates

Membership is awarded to the company and once obtained remains with the company on payment of the annual fees. During the joining process, you will be asked to assign three corporate liverymen or one corporate freeman, depending on the membership tier you choose. These delegates will be your company's key representatives at The Furniture Makers' Company. In the eventuality that one of your representatives moves on from the business, your company will be asked to name a new delegate to replace them.

Annual corporate membership fee

£5,000+VAT

Annual corporate supporter fee

£1,000+VAT

For more information, please contact our corporate membership manager.

📞 020 7256 5558

✉ corporatemembership@furnituremakers.org.uk

🌐 furnituremakers.org.uk/membership

📷 FurnitureMakersCompany

🌐 The Furniture Makers' Company

📷 FurnitureMkrsCo



Furniture Makers' Hall, 12 Austin Friars, London EC2N 2HE
020 7256 5558 | furnituremakers.org.uk

Cover image: Main Line Twist by Camira