



Regions

Regional Association



The Furniture Makers' Company
the furnishing industry's charity



*The Southern Region's
Summer Party*

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 community of supporters and members comprises of individuals and businesses that make up the diverse, vibrant and creative UK furnishing industry. It is a force for good and our regional associates help us fulfill our vision. On getting involved, you will be warmly welcomed into a friendly and supportive group 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 become a regional associate

All regional associates must be linked 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.

You could be a designer, manufacturer, distributor, craftsperson, retailer, supplier, lecturer, PR practitioner or journalist – all are welcome. We encourage and welcome diversity – sectoral and cultural – within our ranks and would be happy to hear from you, even if you have now retired.

What our regional associates 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.



Socialising around the country



The Yorkshire Curry Night

Your region Get involved

Although Furniture Makers' Hall is situated within the City of London, our influence and work as a national members' organisation and UK-wide charity for the trade spreads beyond London through our regional network.

Regional association enables furnishing industry colleagues to build links locally and get involved with events and initiatives in their area, charitable and otherwise, without the formality of officially joining the livery.

Regional association is recommended to those in the industry who are new to The Furniture Makers' Company and want to discover more about us before joining as a freeman.

Currently, our regional network is segmented as follows:

East of England

Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire and Suffolk.

North East

Northumberland Tyne, Wear and County Durham.

North West

Cheshire, Cumbria, Lancashire, Greater Manchester and Merseyside.

South West

Cornwall, Dorset, Devon, Gloucestershire and Somerset.

Southern

Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Hampshire, Oxfordshire and Wiltshire.

Yorkshire

East Riding of Yorkshire, North Yorkshire, South Yorkshire and West Yorkshire.

Regions in development:

East Midlands

Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire.

South East

East Sussex, Greater London, Kent, Surrey, and West Sussex

West Midlands

Herefordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, West Midlands and Worcestershire.

Benefits

What's in it for you?

Joining your region provides an excellent opportunity to 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. You will receive a copy of the annual Austin Friar and a copy of our monthly newsletter by email and are eligible to become a freeman by interview.

Fun and fellowship

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

Develop your network

As a regional associate, you will be invited to join the region's committee and are welcome to attend any events within your local area. Each region has a calendar of social events, business orientated seminars and activities that provide the opportunity to meet, get fresh perspectives, wider your knowledge and help you to develop professionally and personally.

Give something back

As the charity for the furnishing industry, we offer members the opportunity to make a positive impact on the sector by supporting our charitable activities. You can also collaborate with other members through rewarding committee work in your region.



*The New Makers Conference
in the South West*



Northern Big Shots

Next step Contact us

If you are interested in becoming a regional associate or progressing in your membership journey, we invite you to get in touch with our regional fundraising administrator to find out more.

Each of our regions hold regular committee meetings, where you can hear more about the benefits of getting involved. There is plenty of opportunity to ask questions and to meet other associates in a social setting. If you are interested in attending a session, please contact us.

Regional associate rates

The annual regional association fee is £25+VAT. Should you require fee invoices to be made payable by your business please arrange with the regional fundraising administrator.

- 📞 020 7256 5558
- ✉️ hello@furnituremakers.org.uk
- 🌐 furnituremakers.org.uk/regional

- 📷 [FurnitureMakersCompany](#)
- 🌐 [The Furniture Makers' Company](#)
- 📱 [FurnitureMkrsCo](#)



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

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