Parquet *by period*: matching patterns to heritage interiors

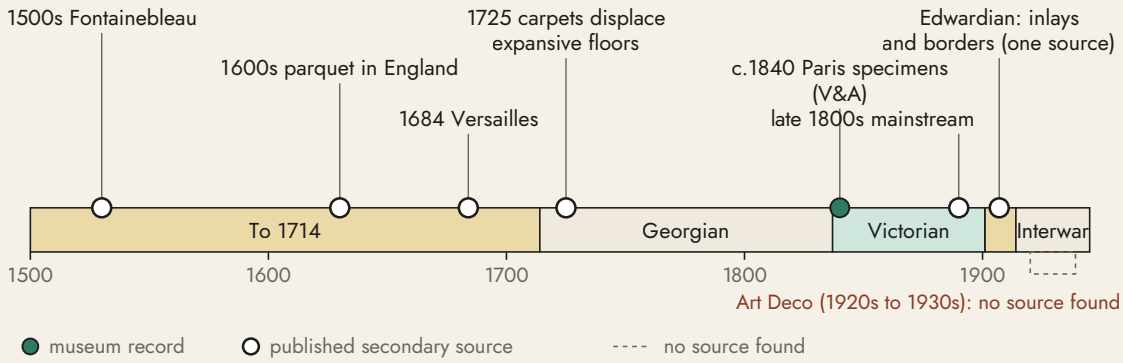
Tendencies, not rules: a sourced period table with the strength of each claim marked, the uncertain origins, and wording for a match, evoke or reference brief.

Compliance guidance. A reference to tendencies, not certainty. Read on 7 November 2026: a museum record, a conservation article, an encyclopaedia entry, a retailer's history, a wiki entry and a dealer's page. Several are uncited, and sources conflict, especially for the Georgian period. For a listed building, ask the conservation officer.

AT A GLANCE

Period	Patterns (tendencies)	Species mentioned	Evidence	Strength
To 1714 (France, then England)	Versailles squares and diagonal patterns; early panel designs (16th century); in England from the 17th century.	Oak (Versailles); walnut, cherry, ebony and rosewood for inlay (retailer history).	Dated mentions: conservation article, wiki entry, Wikipedia, dealer page. Mostly secondary; 1684 uncited on Wikipedia.	*Some support*
Georgian (to 1837 here)	Sources conflict: wide softwood boards are the norm in what we read; parquet as a mark of status in formal rooms in some trade sources.	Mahogany in grand houses, Baltic fir or pine in modest ones (retailer history, for boards).	The retailer history lists no parquet; The conservation article says expansive floors were displaced from 1725 as carpets spread.	*Conflicting*
Victorian (1837 to 1901)	Inlaid patterns and parquet; parquet mainstream by the end of the century.	Oak, mahogany, walnut (retailer history).	Museum record: Paris specimens c. 1840. Conservation article: mainstream by the end of the century.	*Some support*
Edwardian (1901 to 1914)	Parquet with decorative inlays and borders; machine production.	Oak, mahogany, pine (retailer history).	Retailer history only, among sources read.	*Thin*
Arts and Crafts, Art Nouveau	Parquet used by named designers (wiki entry); plain plank and strip layouts (retailer history).	Oak, pine (retailer history).	The wiki entry and the retailer history disagree on what was typical.	*Conflicting*
Art Deco (1920s to 1930s)	No source read documents it.	None found.	The retailer history is silent; a flooring firm's article is a design argument, not a history.	*None found*
Later 20th century	Parquet gained popularity (retailer history); wood block floors laid with hot bitumen 'formerly' (Wikipedia).	Birch, beech, oak, maple (retailer history).	Undated in Wikipedia.	*Thin*

Sources are described, not named; the notes file names them. Species lists are examples from the source, not rules.



Parquet timeline, 1500 to 1950, with the strength of the evidence for each marker. Dates and statements are from the sources named in the table. Original drawing by Make Bespoke Studio.

SPECIFICATION WORDING

PERIOD INTENT

The floor is to [match / evoke / reference] [period] parquet. Evidence: [survey of surviving fabric, photographs, records, museum or archive reference]. Pattern [herringbone / Versailles panel / other] to the layout drawing [ref].

ELEMENTS AND SPECIES

Block or panel size [ ] mm, thickness [ ] mm, [species, grade] chosen to [match the surviving floor / evoke the period]. Approval by [designer / conservation officer] of a [2 x 2] m sample laid dry on site before fixing.

FINISH AND FIXING

Finish [oil / wax / lacquer] at [matt to satin] sheen, sample approved. Fixing method [bonded / nailed to battens] agreed with [conservation officer] where the building is listed.

CLAIMS

No document is to describe the floor as 'authentic' or 'original' unless the evidence on file supports that word for that area.

TERMS USED

Parquet de Versailles

A pattern of large square panels, sometimes laid on the diagonal, associated with 17th-century French chateaux. Wikipedia and a dealer date its introduction to 1684; neither cites a primary source we could check.

Parquetry

Patterned wood flooring or veneer work made of geometric pieces. The V&A uses the term for floor specimens made in Paris about 1840.

Hungarian point (point de Hongrie)

A trade name for a chevron-type pattern of angled blocks. No source we read dates the name.

STANDARDS AND SOURCES

- V&A collections: parquetry specimens, Paris, c. 1840 (30-1844): museum record read 7 Nov 2026.
- Building Conservation Directory: Parquetry Floors (Weldon): reproduced 2006; read 7 Nov 2026.
- BS EN 13756 wood flooring terminology: named only; not checked or read this session.

Full guide: https://makebespoke.com/trade/technical/parquet-by-period. Make Bespoke Studio coordinates manufacture through its partner workshops. Figures are guidance only and your specification governs; some may be superseded, so contact the studio to verify.