

Woodworking continued from pre-Hispanic to colonial times. Curiously, its utilitarian and religious purposes seem to have continued under different scenarios.

The first carpenter to arrive in Inca lands was Pedro de Anadel, who was present at the capture of the Inca Atahualpa in 1532. As cities were founded, the presence of more artisans was necessary, especially those dedicated to the construction of houses. In addition, other forms of woodworking were carried out by skilled specialists such as the white carpenter, the black carpenter and violeros (in charge of making musical instruments) and wood sculptors (carvers, assemblers, painters, gilders) specialized mainly in altarpieces (religious wooden sculptures).

Over time, the native population with skills in this trade was incorporated informally. The beauty of the great altarpieces of churches and convents in colonial Lima were witnesses to the degree of excellence of the work of the master craftsmen of wood.

On the other hand, the art of furniture making reached a high level that showed elegance, symmetry and proportion of its forms. The cabinetmakers used cedar, mahogany, teak and radiata pine in their different qualities. These woods arrived by ship to the port of Callao from Central America, Guayaquil and Chile.

For the making, steel tools were used such as a saw, plane, chisel, rasp, plane and drills. In addition, squares and measuring rulers. For assembly, dowels, dowels, nails and glue were used, using European techniques.