

**PRESS RELEASE
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Art & Forge and WILLIAMSBURG Brand Debut Hardware Collection Rooted in American Design History

The collection marks Art & Forge's first licensed collaboration, consisting of five distinct hardware lines that reflect WILLIAMSBURG's commitment to quality and charming interiors.

May 7, 2025; Norfolk, VA— Handcrafted hardware company Art & Forge debuts the WILLIAMSBURG collection, partnering with the iconic heritage brand of non-profit Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. The WILLIAMSBURG collection brings together the creativity of two esteemed Virginia-based companies, creating a historically inspired collection that provides a fresh take on design elements rooted in storytelling.

The collection consists of five distinct designs drawn directly from the archives and legacy of Colonial Williamsburg, one of the most respected centers for historical craftsmanship and design preservation in the world. Inspired by 18th-century forms that prized beauty, proportion, and lasting quality, every piece is made from solid brass, a material chosen for its durability, inherent warmth, and patina that develops over time.

“At Art & Forge, we design hardware that is graceful without being delicate, refined without being ornamental, and above all, made to last,” says Art & Forge co-founder Cynthia Malhotra. “As we began the design process for our first collaborative collection, it was important to work with a partner that feels close to home, appreciates a historical view on timeless hardware, and is ready to recreate designs for the way we live today. We found just that in the WILLIAMSBURG Brand team.”

The WILLIAMSBURG collection includes:

James: Inspired by 18th-century furniture hardware, the *James* line draws on the enduring elegance of beading and coining—decorative details originally designed to catch and reflect candlelight in dimly lit rooms. These finely worked edges brought a quiet brilliance to interiors, adding shimmer and depth in environments defined by shadow and glow. Today, the same principles of proportion and restraint give *James* its timeless appeal. In modern spaces with moody palettes or understated lighting schemes, these subtle details create moments of texture and reflection—a nod to history that feels entirely at home in contemporary interiors. The knob features a gently raised dome, and decorative banding adds sculptural interest that beautifully catches the light. The pull is defined by two finely detailed bands of beading and coining, framing a gently rounded center. This subtle curvature feels as considered in the hand as it looks on the cabinet.

Wren: The *Wren* line reimagines elegant oval knobs discovered in the archaeology lab at Colonial Williamsburg, transforming a historic artifact into a statement of refined craftsmanship. The proportions of this artifact were perfect and were therefore left unchanged. The line’s oval knob is offered in two versions: smooth surface and hand hammered. Each of the latter is painstakingly hand-hammered by a skilled artisan, ensuring no two pieces are exactly alike; all catch the light across their subtle irregularities.. This grouping also features an oval and rectangular backplate with a step design offering a

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subtle architectural frame that enhances the form and function of the hardware. The oval backplate mirrors the organic softness of the hammered knob, while the rectangular version introduces a tailored, linear counterpoint, allowing designers to customize.

Blair: This geometric design was inspired by the top of an exquisite 18th-century American Chippendale-style andirons from the DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum. While centuries old in design inspiration, the finished product has a modern feel that is a bit unexpected from the WILLIAMSBURG Brand collaboration.

Francis: A tribute to the legacy of Colonial Williamsburg's walled gardens and intricate architectural landscape, the *Francis* knobs were inspired by an 18th-century floral illustration uncovered in Colonial Williamsburg's Rare Books archive and a floral metal mold discovered in the site's archaeology lab. This flower-shaped knob draws from the graceful structure of heritage blooms: symmetrical, sculptural, and quietly powerful. While its silhouette recalls the enduring language of floral motifs like the Tudor Rose, the *Francis* knob roots itself firmly in the American garden tradition—where beauty was intentional, cultivated, and integral to a home's interior design. Art & Forge introduces new Verdigris and 24K gold-plated finishes for the Francis knobs. Verdigris provides a rich, green-blue patina inspired by centuries of natural oxidation. The 24K gold-plated finish leans into the jewel-like form of the Francis flower knob, offering a level of refinement rarely seen in architectural hardware.

Tidewater: The Tidewater Shell Door Knocker is hand-chiseled in solid brass, inspired by 18th-century American decorative arts. With its Rococo shell motif and artisan-made detail, this timeless piece brings elegance and heritage to any entryway.

“WILLIAMSBURG partners with distinguished companies to develop products that emphasize the relevance of our historic architecture and design to today's interiors,” says WILLIAMSBURG Director of Brand & Licensing Kiri Franco. “Art & Forge has reimagined these timeless details into a hardware collection that brings history home. It is designed for those who appreciate the authenticity of the past while building the spaces of the future.”

The WILLIAMSBURG collection is open for pre-orders starting May 7th and will be available beginning June 15th. Phase two of the WILLIAMSBURG collection, which includes the Blair and Tidewater lines, will be available in September 2025. Art & Forge offers a trade program for interior design and custom home-building clients. Driven by a belief in intentional living and the transformative power of well-designed spaces, co-founders Cynthia and Rishap Malhotra work with a close-knit network of artisans in India while based in Norfolk, Virginia. For more information, please visit www.ArtandForge.com.

About Art & Forge:

Art & Forge is a handcrafted hardware company that provides exceptional, bespoke home décor and architectural products utilizing the finest materials and skilled craftsmanship available. Serving design-conscious individuals, interior designers, and luxury home builders, Art & Forge is headquartered in Norfolk, VA, and is proudly made in India, honoring the country's tradition of exceptional metal craftsmanship and the brand's commitment to quality. Art & Forge is dedicated to sustainable and ethical production while continuously pushing the boundaries of design and innovation. Its products inspire customers to create beautiful and functional living spaces that break free of standard, mass-produced designs, reflect individual personalities, and enhance their daily lives. For more information, visit www.ArtandForge.com.

About WILLIAMSBURG Brand:

WILLIAMSBURG is a heritage brand with roots as deep as our country. The brand shares a legacy of

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vibrant stories, blending historic inspiration with modern influences to create beautiful and welcoming homes. For over 85 years, WILLIAMSBURG's thoughtfully curated collections have been inspired by the hands-on traditions of 18th-century makers and pull artistic details from the rich archives of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. For more information, visit www.Brand.ColonialWilliamsburg.org.

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