



This sixteen by twenty English library is solid mahogany, featuring hand carved moldings and hand planed raised paneling. Each case molding displays a rosette and leaf pattern from our portfolio of carving patterns. A variety of patterns are available, and we are always creating new designs based on customer specifications. The homeowner did not want a single sign of the sheetrock walls to show through, close moldings and a gold crown cap completed the built-in floor to ceiling effect. Hunter green above and a brass chandelier finalize the traditional feel.

Additional features include a gas fireplace with raised panel surround and two-inch thick solid mahogany mantle. The green marble surround is wrapped in mahogany moldings creating a seamless transition between stone and wood. An original antique brass frame stands out against the green stone, creating depth and avoiding monotony of material.

A fully functional web bar allows easy access to glasses, drinks, and a sink for easy service. A green marble top gives a classic look to the space, which is fully wrapped in solid mahogany. Glass shelves provide storage for liquor, while maintaining an open feeling.

The home's audio center hides within the confines of this library, blending in high technology without disturbing the period look and feel. Eric Saperstein, the "son" partner in this father and son business, is a home theater enthusiast and understands the requirements for equipment installation. Woodworking can turn a pile of equipment into a focal point of décor, or completely hide it from view.

All surfaces are finished with a fine hand rubbed shellac and tongue oil varnish finish with a final coat of Simonize furniture wax. Hand rubbed finishes are almost unheard of today, but they are the only way to draw the true beauty from wood. Artificial finishes lay on top of the wood's surface, creating a glass surface effect. Natural finishes actually penetrate the wood, maintaining its true form showing off the grain patterning.



Artisans of the Valley

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Photography by Thomas Henry Clark, Jr.



Hand Crafted Custom Woodworking

Our most recent piece is a hand carved oak hope chest, circa 1650. The hope chest, or dowry chest, is a traditional dowry of this era; a father would build or purchase a chest for his daughter upon her engagement. Friends and family would then fill the chest with blankets, linens, and household items to ensure the young bride would be able to start her new home. Hope chests remained a tradition until modern times, when dowries became outdated. However, the sentimental nature of this item still serves as the perfect wedding, graduation, or anniversary gift.

Chests may be decorated in standard patterns, or personalized to display initials or crests. Many chests commemorate a joining with maiden initials of the wife and initials of the husband on the left and right panels, while the center panel offers family initial and marks the year of their wedding. A recent client offered a personalized variant of this chest as a surprise anniversary gift to his wife, earning him an enthusiastic response, and of course the issue of how to top it next year. This work of art is now part of a family's collection of heirlooms.

We have created many similar items through the years, but each a distinctly unique gift personalized to the occasion. Chests are available in a full range of traditional stains; carving accents include full acrylic color, tinting, or gold. Woods include solid oak, walnut, cherry, and poplar. Finish your search for this year's perfect gift by commissioning a work of art in wood.



In addition to our cabinetmaking services, we are offering a truly unique specialty, hand carved walking sticks and canes. Each stick is an original, and may be personalized for the owner. Personalization can be as simple as a name or favorite saying, or extensive as this commemorative stick, shown to the left. This stick was a gift to a Grand Master Mason, commemorating his dedication and service. Perhaps one of our most ornately decorated sticks to date, this work commemorates a lifetime of dedication and achievement for an individual dedicated to his brethren. The complexity of this particular stick extends to include each of the house symbols, stories, sayings, dates, titles, and finally the artist's signature all burned into this sumac stick.

Each walking stick carries a face or bust of a figure, fantasy character, symbolic ornament, or animal. Lincoln, Grant, Lee, classic eagles, cobras, bears, wolves, and once a tom turkey, have each appeared atop these staffs in sculptured form over the years. Selections from a standard portfolio, or offer us the welcome challenge of a new idea. If you have someone on your gift list that seems to have everything, consider a personalized walking stick, you are offering someone a conversation piece that will last a lifetime.

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The original of this drop-leaf table is in the Governor's Palace at Williamsburg, Virginia. Made in a rare Honduras Mahogany, the table is perfect for small rooms; its leaves fold down, leaving a 54"x24" table. Open, the oval top is 70"x54". Artisans offers the skills required to produce such unique pieces, often almost impossible to find in modern times.

The popularity of Country furniture has remained strong for over twenty years. Artisans offers a full line of Country furniture including tables, cupboards, corner cupboards, pie safes, servers, and hutches.

Show to the right, a solid oak four-leg table with tapered legs, mortis and tenon joint work, and a walnut band. This is not a modern plywood or jointed short piece, it is entirely constructed of solid wood and designed to last for generations.



Below, a classic Country pine kitchen set, including right to left; a pie safe offering pantry style storage without using closet space, a Welsh server, and Dutch cupboard. The design of pie safes allows storage of baked goods, breads, and grains in a ventilated space safe from flies. Punched tin panel doors allow the customer to choose from an almost unlimited selection of patterns.



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