



NEWSLETTER

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November 2006

Beyond Wood

By Chris Kovacs

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Trying something new is always a little bit risky but should be looked upon as a challenge and not an insurmountable obstacle. This is how I have come to view my current project: my kitchen. The old stand-bys, cherry wood, granite and stainless appliances seem to work well with almost any design and I have executed them successfully a number of times. However, on my own kitchen, I wanted something new and a bit different.

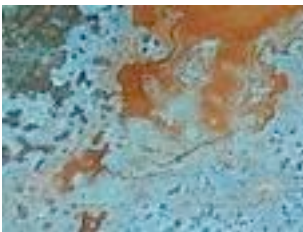
We chose quarter-sawn white oak and reclaimed (from my wall studs) quarter-sawn douglas fir for the cabinets. We also opted for 30" deep counters that provide plenty of working room and still let you keep items like toasters and knife blocks on the counter without them getting in the way. For the counters and doors, we also wanted something new and different so we looked into a new use for copper other than water pipes and electrical wiring.

I wanted to give copper a try for the counters. I had seen pictures of this before and scoured the web for more information and soon realized that this may not be the best counter top option. It is very cool looking and very expensive (about \$170/square foot). Being somewhat cheap I figured I could fashion my own copper counters the same way laminate counters are made. I bought a 12" wide strip of copper roof flashing and made a couple of sample counters. The tricky part is the corners and folding the copper (welding is not an option for me) so it looks clean. This worked much better in my head than in real life.

I did discover that copper and waterproof MDF can be bonded together quite well with contact adhesive. Currently the samples are sitting on my patio obtaining their patina. I have also beaten them up to see how hard (soft is a better term) the copper is. One source I found for copper counters described them as having a living finish. Now I see why: literally everything and anything will scratch, dent or stain the copper. I guess after a while the dings and dents become so plentiful you no longer see them. While this experiment continues my temporary melamine counters are working really well and the price was right at \$50.

Our other use of copper is in the panels of the doors and drawer fronts. For these panels, I found a supplier of patinated copper veneer (www.VeneerSupplies.com). There are several different styles and we picked one that has lots of reds, greens and some black. I believe the different styles are made by applying various acids to the veneer to oxidize the copper. Again, this veneer is quite thin and fragile and was glued using a vacuum press onto 1/4" MDF and will be installed in the door and drawer frames. This part of my kitchen project is still underway and the doors should be complete by the next guild meeting. I will bring along some of my copper prototypes to show the group and will hopefully encourage you to try something new in your workshop.

Two options for copper veneer.



EMGW Tours of Newport and Providence

By Frank Woolley

Early on Saturday, October 14, it was cold but sunny when 23 EMGW members and guests gathered at the Visitors Information Center in Newport, Rhode Island. We were soon being led through the old streets and past wonderfully preserved examples of 17th and 18th century houses in the Point district. This is where many of the craftsmen who produced the fabulous fine furniture for which Newport is famous had their homes and shops. The streets of the Point are laid out in a rectangular grid, reminding us that the craftsmen of Newport were part of a Quaker community that saw the divine in orderly towns and orderly workmanship. Our tour was led by Lisa Dady, Director of Education and Public Programs for the Newport Restoration Foundation, one of several non-profit groups engaged in preserving and making available to the public the architectural and furniture legacy of Newport.

After an hour-long tour around the Point, we walked through the historic business district to the Whitehorse House. There Lisa and several docents conducted us through two floors of rooms furnished with beautiful late-18th and early-19th century furniture, most of which was made in Newport, with many pieces by craftsmen of the famed Townsend and Goddard families.

Following these tours, most of the group hastened to Providence and met again at the Museum of the Rhode Island School of Design. There we were treated by very knowledgeable docents to an overview of the wide-ranging art collection of the museum, and then given a more detailed tour of the Pendleton House. This building, although an integral part of the larger art museum, was specially built a century ago to display the extensive collection of American furniture and decorative arts of Charles Pendleton. It is the earliest example of an American “wing” in any museum. In addition to a wonderful collection of furniture, there are also extensive collections of silver, porcelain, ceramics and French wallpaper from the late colonial period and into the early 19th century.

By mid-afternoon we were saturated with amazing furniture, so about half of the group that had met early in the morning at Newport adjourned to Hemingway's, a fine seafood restaurant only a long block from the RISD Museum, where an excellent meal completed the day before the long drive back home.

After an hour-long tour around the Point, we walked through the historic business district to the Whitehorse House.

Membership

If you would like further information about the Eastern Massachusetts Guild of Woodworkers, please email Phyllis Jaffee at pjajfee@29designs.com. Yearly dues are \$40 and payable each September.

For Sale

I have a used Exaktor sliding table for crosscutting large material and sheet goods. This attachment was mounted on my cabinet saw and worked very well. It is in good shape and I have all of the parts and pieces. It is no longer needed as I now have a commercial sliding table saw. If you have old copies of the Guild newsletter, I had written a review of this sliding table.

If you are interested, please give me a call (978-448-2567). It is currently listing for \$799 on Amazon. I would be happy to see this unit find a new home for \$375.

Chris Kovacs

The Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be at the shop of Maggie Wood. Maggie has a lot of experience as a picture framer and currently works part time at a framing shop in Acton. For our Saturday meeting on November 11 at 9:00am, Maggie will show us her techniques for perfect miters and square picture frames. In addition to cutting those miters, glass also needs to be cut and we will have a glass cutting demonstration and small hands-on workshop for those interested in cutting glass.



Maggie Wood
Wood by Wood
100 Main Street
Maynard, MA
(978) 897-5683

Her shop space is located in the lower level at the rear of the building. You must go around the back to find her door.

From inside 128/95 take Rt. 2 west toward Concord. Take Rt. 62 (Main Street) west for about 4.5 miles. Take a right on Waltham Street in Maynard. Left on Summer Street and a left of Nason Street. Nason Street intersects Main Street right in front of Maggie's building (Masonic Hall and Thai restaurant). Find on-street parking or take a quick left and then a right and pull in behind Maggie's building.

From the North, come down I495 to Rt. 2 east and get off at Rt. 27. Head west on Rt. 27 toward Maynard. After about three miles, take a left on Nason Street. Nason Street intersects Main Street right in front of Maggie's building (Masonic Hall and Thai restaurant). Find on-street parking or take a quick left and then a right and pull in behind Maggie's building.

From the South, come north on I495 to Rt. 117 east. Continue on 117 east for about 7.5 miles into downtown Maynard. Take a left onto Rt. 62 Main Street and go about .7 miles. Maggie's building will be on the left.



Officers and Board Members

President:	Bill Karp	karpwoodworks@verizon.net
Vice President	Frank Woolley	frankwoolley@hotmail.com
Secretary	Jack Murphy	Jack.Murphy@MonotypelMaging.com
Treasurer	Peter Wilcox	snowmole@yahoo.com
Board	Chris Kovacs	cdkovacs@charter.net
	Phyllis Jaffee	pgjaffee@29designs.com
	John Nitzsche	jknitz@comcast.net
Membership	Phyllis Jaffee	pgjaffee@29designs.com
Webmaster:	John Nitzsche	jknitz@comcast.net
Newsletter editor	Chris Kovacs	cdkovacs@charter.net

Schedule

What:

Furniture repair and restoration
Hosted by Bob Judd
Early American Furniture Tour
Details coming soon.
Picture Framing techniques

Where:

25 Cliff Way
Dedham, MA
Newport, RI
Maggie Wood
Maynard, MA
Pat Everett
Everett, MA
TBA
TBA
TBA
530 Essex Street
Lawrence, MA
Nathan Hawkes
23 Noel Street Unit 4A
Amesbury, MA
4 Deerslayer Lane
Westborough, MA

When:

September 9
October 14
November 11
December 9
January 13
February 10
March 10
April 14
May 12
June 9

Jigs and pattern routing

Fabrication tour

Shop Layout

Machine tuning

Hosted by Will Neptune and
Frank Woolley

Machinery adaptations

Hosted by Joe Aiello

CNC machining demonstration

Annual meeting and BBQ at
Phyllis Jaffee's house

SEPTEMBER 2006

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OCTOBER 2006

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NOVEMBER 2006

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DECEMBER 2006

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