

Artisans Quarterly Review

A R T I S A N S O F T H E V A L L E Y

Special Sandy Feature Issue

Our services

Antique & Collectable Restoration

Modern Furniture Refinishing

Storm Damage Assessments

Insurance Consultation

Onsite Touchup & Repair

Custom Period Furniture

Custom Original Design Furniture

Custom Concrete Furniture

Woodcarving & Woodturning

Sculpture & Chainsaw Carving

Commercial Signs

Offsite Storage

White Glove Furniture Moving Services

Log & Lumber Salvage / Reclamation

Artisans of the Valley is one of the nation's premier restoration and custom furniture studios!

We are the last of the traditionally trained craftsman.

S T I L L S T A N D I N G A F T E R S A N D Y

October of 2012 exited our region impacted by major disaster; our hearts go out to all of those who lost so much during hurricane Sandy.

Artisans came through with a short disruption in power and the loss of a few trees, no complaints here. We were lucky! We maintain most of our offsite storage at Buxton's Boxes which was built with proper drainage and to withstand hurricane class winds. Everything we had on hand remained safe and dry throughout the storm. The first response teams, utilities, and gov't crews all busted their asses to keep things going and get the power back on. Thank you!

Artisans is ready to take on restoration projects from the storm as well as provide custom furniture and commercial signs to replace what was lost. "Restore the Shore" is the game plan, and we're honored to do our part.

2013 quickly established itself with restorations as the meat of our schedule; we already have projects booking into spring and even further into the summer season. We are ready to continue our mission to restore furniture damaged by Sandy and replace heirloom quality custom furniture.

Our lumber salvage operation is in full throttle; we have over 40 logs from storm falls and reconstruction at the lumber mill. Our inventory is increasing quick and we'll be cataloging slabs as they come out of the kiln. This is local harvest high quality unique lumber, ready to go to help replace lost heirlooms, repair antiques, and to create a host of artistic period and modern furniture. Artisans is exited to be green; we will use this locally harvested lumber as often as possible!

**D O N ' T T H R O W I T O U T
U N T I L W E C H E C K I T O U T !**

Artisans is available to provide assistance in evaluating storm, flood, fire, or "creative human" damaged furniture. Don't throw it out until we've had a chance to check it out. We're good at fixing stuff! When it comes to your heirlooms and treasures, restoration and refinishing is often within reach, even after smoke or submersion damage.

We can provide onsite evaluation or, with detailed photos, give a reasonable estimate of restoration feasibility and costs. We're geared up to take on the next wave of restorations. Our goal is to work with our clients, insurance companies, and contractors to time restorations so that our delivery is scheduled close to when your homes are back to life.

Keep in mind when you have a flood damage situation it is critical to mitigate mold and moisture damage as quickly as possible. When we collect your furniture, we will quickly remove all upholstery and run the piece through a chemical process to kill all the mold and bacteria. The furniture will then be stored for several months, allowing it to dry out and reacclimate before restoration begins. This is critical to ensure the wood returns to a reasonable moisture level; finishing wet wood will not provide a good result. When we return your treasures, they will be ready to serve you and your family again!



FULL SERVICE RESTORATION & REFINISHING

A new life for four oak refractory tables that literally fell apart as we prepared them for transport! All are now completed and back on duty serving Princeton students.

These were back-breaking to move around the shop and they gained weight as they were reassembled from splinters into furniture. Even though we removed quite a bit of material returning the legs and planning the surfaces, the new beam structures and lamination layers applied to the tops probably added 75lbs to each piece.



DINING IN WITH PRINCETON'S CAP & GOWN CLUB

One-hundred years of dinner will stress out even these heavy-duty six-leg solid oak dining tables. What's amazing, even to us, is that another century of service is not an unreasonable expectation.

We completed a full breakdown of the tables, separating almost every joint and then cleaning-up and rebuilding each component, adding additional structure to restore the integrity of the frames and tabletops.

This is actually not a complex restoration, but one that is very time consuming and requires a lot of clamps. The legs present the most challenging aspect of this project. Each leg (24 in total) split along almost all the original joints. We then glued them back together, adding a center core, then we re-turned and restored the profile on every leg.



STORM PROOF CONCRETE FURNITURE!

Tired of losing furniture in a storm? Solid hand cast concrete furniture is nearly indestructible and endures all forms of weather. A customizable alternative material that can be formed and colorized into infinite combinations. The example shown is marbilized.

A great choice for décor and for the environment. We can even incorporate any number of scraps, random stones, glass, metals, or other recycled materials, it can be considered an "upcycle" material.

This bench is just the first of many pending designs. We are at the early stages of launching a line of concrete furniture. Soon we will release examples of tables in an assortment of sizes. We will also be implementing a variety of functions within the table's structure. Concepts include gaming tables, fire pits, and coolers.

Now here's where things get really interesting. We have the option of turning these pieces into true memorials. If you want a permanent method for keeping the ashes of a loved one or pet we can safely mix them with concrete and after adding an appropriate marker, this original design furniture can hold a lot more than just an artistic and functional form.

We are taking orders for concrete furniture now. Please contact us soon if you would like to be the first on your block to be showing off your new concrete furniture this summer!



ASHLEY & CONNOR'S DRIVE

On Sunday, December 2, 2012 Artisans delivered donations for victims of Super Storm (Hurricane) Sandy to Pioneer Hose Co #1 in Brick Township, NJ (Station 22). Our donation drive was organized by Ashley Hutchinson, age 10, with the help of her brother Connor, age 8.

All donations will be managed by Pioneer members and will be given directly to families in need. We would like to say thank you to our friends, neighbors, and families and all of our community for their contributions. We gathered a trailer load!

Donations were collected from our local community by:

*Artisans of the Valley, LLC. of Pennington, NJ * Captain Paul's Firehouse Dogs of Lawrenceville, NJ * Pennington Road Fire Company & First Aid Unit (Station 32) of Ewing, NJ * allquatics of Hamilton, NJ * Donna's Hair Studio & Spa of Ewing, NJ.*



SO YOU'VE FOUND MOLD, NOW WHAT??



So your furniture survived a flood, was stored in the basement, ended up in the barn for a while, or perhaps was the victim of a leaking pipe? Don't throw it out!!!

Whatever the cause, the net result is usually discovered as a white or black powdery looking substance stuck on the surface. Mold must be dealt with, it's not the end of the universe as we know it, but it must be safely removed as soon as possible.

Hurricane Sandy offered an array of perfect conditions for mold growth. Homes and businesses were hit hard, then often left for days or even weeks before they could be safely accessed. The weather was warm and mold flourished.

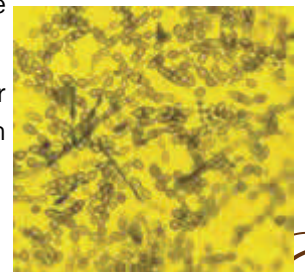
Generally, when a piece of furniture is exposed to a flood, restoring and refinishing it is the best course of action. Artisans provides services to remove existing finishes, usually done with methylene chloride which isn't going to allow the survival of any organism. If the situation is bad, hydrogen peroxide is another viable agent for exterminating bacteria, viruses, mold, and fungi.

The piece shown here is perfectly safe and reasonable to restore

and refinish. We will apply the appropriate solutions to kill the mold spores and remove the stains. This usually involves removing the finish or "stripping" the piece, unless the finish is an original shellac on a true antique that is the best option to mitigate mold. We are experienced in finish conservation techniques; our techniques for antique restoration are museum quality.

Your piece will then be placed in storage for a few months to allow it to reacclimatize. This is a critical step; we want to allow the moisture level to naturally return to normal. We will then rebuild the piece. Given extreme moisture exposure, many original glues such as hide glue will be dissolved and the expansion/contraction of the joints will cause the piece to become unstable. Restoring the joint structure is a necessity. We will then apply stain and finish as appropriate inside and outside the piece, this will seal the entire structure including killing/sealing in any remaining spores.

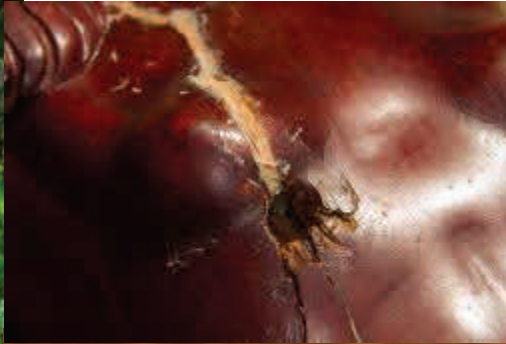
Our goal is to regain the structure, esthetics, and of course ensure your furniture is safe to return to your home. We have been in the furniture business since 1973, so after four decades we have the restoration and mold mitigation process down to a science!



WWII STATUE RESTORATION (LEAVING THE BULLET HOLES INTACT)



This restoration is a unique Szervativsz pre-WWII hand carved statue . The piece survived in Poland with only a few wounds and scars including some bullet holes received during a skirmish our client's family narrowly escaped.

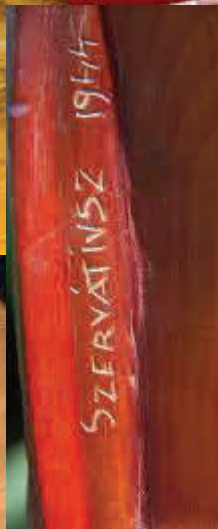


We stabilized the piece by inserting material into a crack that was spreading rapidly since the piece was shipped to the US.



The new material was colored to match, and adhesive injected into the crack to secure the piece from further splitting. The crack remains obvious, but is no longer active.

The bullet holes are critical to the history of the statue, so we left them all open. Damage sustained in conflict is something of a badge to a piece like this. The artist, the town, the war, and the family who cherished it all intertwined as the story unfolded.



Artisans can provide restoration services for wood sculpture, artwork, frames, gesso, and carvings. Standard conservation, flood or fire damage, and general preservation services are available.

When your heirlooms and treasures need attention, we can assure you that all the details are covered.

ARTISANS GOES LOG SCAVENGING

Hurricane Sandy took down a vast number of trees, and we are out to put them to good use. We hate to see lumber-quality logs end up in chippers and split for firewood; we are rallying everyone we know to help us save this valuable natural resource.

We've rigged up a variety of equipment and partnered with Willard Brother's Wood Cutters, DPD Contractors, and Hartel Timber Services to provide full-service tree-to-lumber-to-furniture services. We're happy to work with your local tree service and pickup millable logs.

We are scouting for walnut, cherry, spalted or curly maple, chestnut, white oak, osage orange, and mulberry. If you have an oversize cedar, apple, pear trees, or another interesting exotic wood, we would be interested in checking it out. We'll also be taking a few poplar trees for large carving projects.

In addition, we are scouting unique exotic materials for wood turning and other small projects. If you're looking to turn a downed favorite tree into a new family heirloom, we are happy to provide this service! Don't throw anything away so quickly, we may be able to turn it from trash to value.



CUSTOM SIGNS COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL



Custom commercial and residential signs are available in wood, MDF, or sign foam. Signs can be 2D or 3D carved in relief or raised lettering per your specifications include standard and custom artwork and sculpture. Our sign shop (The Sign Smith) will provide CAD renderings for permit applications.

All signs are treated with UV resistant automotive grade paints and epoxy sealers. Gold leaf and powder coat finishes are also optional. Design, fabrication, finishing, and installation services are available. Please contact us to discuss the details before initiating the permit process.

THE FIRST 375 YEAR OLD SLAB PROJECT COMPLETED

This solid white oak table is a great example of our techniques for restoring wood. This slab was almost past feasible use, but, when properly handled, it is now an original custom coffee table.

A simple design, four colonial turned legs and a single drawer on full extension bearing slides. The base is just slightly out of square to provide a proper footprint for the shape of the slab. The base is bolted in place through slots to allow for movement of the slab without cracking.

A series of oak butterflies are strategically placed to secure an assortment of cracks in the piece. We inset butterflies on both surfaces of the slab to ensure stability. On this project we decided to go with oak butterflies as we did not want a stark contrast in material.

All of these oak slabs have significant deterioration; rotten sections or sponge like material. We have a proven method of stabilizing "punky" wood, but we're choosing not to share it. Some things have to remain secrets of the trade!

The final result is that this slab is a solid surface ready for use and abuse. There is no stain, this is the natural color of the ancient oak.

Turn your storm fall trees into functional furniture! Harvesting local trees, especially those which fell from natural events, is about as green as it gets when it comes to lumber!



BEECH BOWL

A beech bowl – this project is rather special as it is now one of our family heirlooms in memory of my grandmother, Mildred Saperstein who passed away last year; she treasured her home and was meticulous about her landscaping. Over four decades she kept care of everything, including this copper beech tree.

There's some debate over exactly who caused the damage, but apparently the roots were hit with a mower which allowed mold to enter the tree. My uncle kept it going for years, but the mold obviously took its toll. The tree fell during Super Storm Sandy, as we were preparing the house for sale. We decided to salvage the tree, and we were amazed at the spalting patterns found.

The turning project was completed by fellow craftsman Michael Pietras. This one section shows grain lines that are curly, quarter sawn, end, bias, crotch, straight, and face. Along with this abnormality, this is a rare kind of beech with an assortment of mineral stains and spalting.

Turning wet allowed us to achieve a thin flexible wall; then allowing a “quick” dry, it warped into whatever shape it desired to achieve. The shape became distorted, and the surface rippled. A single butterfly was inserted to stabilize one large crack.

The bowl is finished with West Systems Epoxy and then final coats with Waterlox Tung Oil. It is stable and waterproof, though given we chose not to completely fill the cracks, it will not hold liquid.

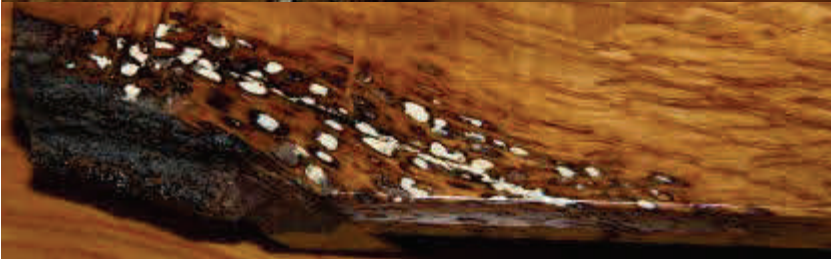
This is yet another reminder – never just toss wood aside. We are now turning several unique bowls and vessels from this heirloom tree, all of which will remain in our family in memory of Millie and her beloved home. Please contact us to discuss turning your storm fall trees into treasures!



MIKE'S MAKI'S

Scrap to treasure! Again we recover value from wood that would traditionally be cast aside! Storms often take (cull) the weaker trees; this 375 year old white oak tree contains a variety of beetle damage, general rotting sections, and many signs of its age. Thanks to a little modern finishing technique using West Systems epoxy and Waterlox tung oil the wood is completely sealed and safe for direct contact with food.

The grain is filled with a mix of colored powders in the epoxy and is permanently encapsulated. These maki boards can be washed with soap and water and sanitized for safe use, as well as providing a unique item for display in your kitchen. We can create treasures like this from hardwood trees that may have fallen during storms or perhaps just needed to come down. This is a great way to keep a piece of your family history preserved.



RESTORE THE SHORE!

The NY/NJ coast took a hell of a hit from Hurricane Sandy. The more we are working with families impacted, the more apparent it is that this was a truly catastrophic event. Please take a moment and visit Blue Wave Printing and select from their line of products dedicated to raising funds for the "Restore the Shore" project!

<http://www.bluewaveshirts.com/community.html>



ARTISANS OF THE VALLEY

HAND CRAFTED CUSTOM WOODWORKING



[Artisans of the Valley](#) offers museum quality period reproductions, original designs by commission, and antique restoration/conservation services, hand carving, modern furniture refinishing, onsite furniture repair, hand made walking sticks, and educational programs. Our website is now over 250 pages, including galleries, feature articles, and educational sections, company background, and our new adventure album section. We extend an open invitation to explore our site, and contact us directly with any inquiries or questions you may have.

Eric M. Saperstein is Master of Artisans, Owner, Webmaster, Editor, Bookkeeper, Buyer, Office Manager, Legal Pit-bull, and he's in charge of vacuuming the shop: eric@artisansofthevalley.com

Stanley D. Saperstein, Master Craftsmen, Author, & Historian founded Artisans of the Valley in 1973. Stanley offers historic presentations, impressions, and various lecture series ranging from Civil and Revolutionary War, American Folk Art, and Interactive Role Play of Characters ... sometimes trying to reenact American Chopper episodes in the shop: woodcarver@artisansofthevalley.com



QUARTERLY REVIEW SUMMARY

Artisans Quarterly Review is a four-issue per year newsletter providing details of our ongoing saga. Artisans of the Valley shares custom furniture, restorations, wood turning, sculpture, carvings, and an assortment of other projects completed in our shop. We also cover events in our lives, as the story of the artist often imparts a flavor to our work.

Our quarterly review also includes features of guest artists, those whom we work with closely and sometimes people we just met. We try to ensure a variety of articles with our readers to maintain interest and promote the arts. We have included glass, metal, painters, photographers, jewelry, and dozens of other mediums.

We cover local events such as art shows, festivals, and openings. We share news about wine, food, and things to do. We've partnered with other local businesses, artists, and venues to offer unique opportunities to share our work and that of other local artists.

We share techniques, reviews of products, information about tools, shop talk, and other relevant data pertaining to our crafts. We discuss maintenance and upkeep and provide helpful hints.

This special feature issue focuses on Hurricane Sandy and how we can be of service to those hit by the storm. Request a subscription at newsletter@artisansofthevalley.com or review previous full issues below!

ARTISANS QUARTERLY ISSUES

[Vol 6 Issue 1 - 2012](#) * [Vol 5 Issue 4 - 2012](#)

[Vol 5 Issue 3 - 2012](#) * [Vol 5 Issue 2 - 2012](#)

[Vol 5 Issue 1 - 2012](#) * [Vol 4 Issue 4 - 2011](#)

[Vol 4 Issue 3 - 2011](#) * [Vol 4 Issue 2 - 2011](#)

More issues available at www.artisansofthevalley.com!



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