

Arts Minister Estelle Morris

Last year I was commissioned to make a surprise Christmas present for the Arts Minister, Estelle Morris. The coat stand in oak and sycamore was commissioned by her parents following visits to my workshop.

Strutt & Parker

Following last year's Country Living Fair in London, my business received full editorial coverage in Strutt & Parker's property magazine. A number of clients were interviewed, and had their work featured in the article. Many thanks to all of those who helped with this.

Alexandra Palace

A selection of my small boxes and jewellery cases were selected for exhibition at the International Woodworking Exhibition held at Alexandra Palace in February.

Art & Architecture Trail 11-12th Sept 2004

Each year I open my workshop with invited guests as part of Wirksworth's Art & Architecture Trail. This year's line up includes Alison Ellen, the knitwear designer from Surrey, and Fran Tristram, ceramicist from Nottingham. In addition to creating exquisite work, both exhibitors also demonstrate and give lectures on a regular basis.

Last year's Art & Architecture Trail was the most successful yet, with visitors from all over the UK and abroad. Over 800 people were welcomed to my 'Once a Year Gallery,' including Estelle Morris who was visiting the Trail in her official capacity.

The Trail as a whole includes around 100 venues displaying the work of around 200 artists around the town. The following week-end a smaller, but no less popular, trail takes place at Bolehill on the outskirts of Wirksworth.

www.wirksworthfestival.co.uk

If anyone from outside the area is interested in making a week-end of it, local accommodation can be found via the Peak District Farm Holiday Group: www.peakdistrictfarmhols.co.uk
Tel. 01335 310274

Tuition and lecturing

A number of people seem to harbour a desire to make their own furniture, and I am getting an increasing number of enquiries from people who would like to learn the skills in my workshop.

I am now carrying out personal tuition on an occasional basis, and also do occasional lecturing for academic and other groups about my work and business.

Current timber stocks

Much of the timber I now hold in stock has been selected board by board for each commission in hand. One client enjoyed a visit to the timber yard with me to help with the selection process!

Supplementing the stocks of native, European and N American timbers, are a range of tropical woods bought speculatively to increase the design and colour palette available for commissioned work. These include zebrano, purpleheart, pernambuco, coconut palm, carretto and satina bloodwood.

Change of date

Please note a change of date from that published on my website. For the week-end of 22-23rd May, I shall now be demonstrating at the popular Food Festival which is held each year at Bolsover castle, Derbyshire. My Open Workshop event will be held on the following bank holiday week-end—Saturday and Sunday 29-30th May.

Calendar of events 2004

- 1-3 May **Concept for Living** (attending), Tatton Park, Knutsford, Cheshire
Chairs 2004 (exhibiting only), Westonbirt Arboretum, Tetbury, Gloucestershire
www.chairs2004.org.uk
- 14-16 May **In House Design for Living**, Landmark Arts Centre, Teddington, Middlesex
- 22,23 May **Food Fair, The Castle**, Bolsover, Derbyshire
- 29,30 May **Open Workshop**, 1C Ravenstor Road, Wirksworth, Derbyshire
- 4-6 June **Project Workshops Summer Exhibition**, Quarley, Hampshire
www.projectworkshops.co.uk
- 21 August **Ashbourne Show**, Osmaston Polo Ground, Derbyshire
- 11,12 Sept **Wirksworth Art & Architecture Trail**, Wirksworth, Derbyshire
- 18,19 Sept **Bolehill Art & Architecture Trail**, Wirksworth, Derbyshire
- 20,21 Nov **British Designer Makers**, Village Hall, Prestbury, Cheshire

Visitors always welcome at the workshop — but please phone first to check I'll be there.

Commissions—planning ahead

The number of enquiries received at the beginning of this year has exceeded all previous years—leading to seven orders placed so far in 2004. For the type of specialist work I do, this represents a significant amount of work.

The number of commissions for birthdays and wedding anniversaries continues to grow - fortunately clients appreciate that I have a long waiting list and know they need to plan ahead!

Recent completed commissions:

Jewellery case

A highly individual jewellery case was completed as an 18th birthday present. Made in birds eye maple, tulipwood and purpleheart, the interior was fitted and lined with fine leather.

Dressing table suite

Commissioned as a 25th wedding anniversary gift, this very personalised dressing table suite has been made from maple, tiger and birds eye maple with spalted beech and ebony. The full set comprises an upholstered 3 legged stool with laminated curved rails, a dressing table with a tambour unit on one side with glass fittings, and a set of drawers on the other side with fitted interior compartments for jewellery and make-up. The set is completed by three articulated and lit mirrors.

Photos for both of the above will be available shortly—please let me know if you're interested in seeing these.

Forthcoming commissions:

Mahogany dresser (50th wedding anniversary).
Bed head board in ash (25th wedding anniversary).
Blanket chest (birthday present).

For exhibitions and stock 2004:

Telephone/bedside tables in walnut, maple and oak.
Mirrors in tiger maple and oak, with walnut or ebony.



Bedside table in zebrano, walnut and tiger maple 2003



Window seat for an Edwardian house in figured oak and sycamore, upholstered in clients' own fabric 2003