



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 mirrors fitted with remote sensor lighting.

Publications

Having featured prominently in last year's Concept for Living Show Guide which was held at Tatton Park, this year began with a two page illustrated article on the business within Elite magazine, a publication of Derbyshire Times. Press coverage continues with the March/April edition of Pure Interiors, a publication of Cheshire Life.



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.

Exhibitions

Having completed my three years of attendance at Art in Action, Oxfordshire, I shall have to wait at least a further three years in the wings before being re-admitted. A very fair policy allowing rotation, but very sad not to be there this year.

My exhibition stand at Concept for Living is in the same position as last year, though the space will be larger in order to display the study furniture (see overleaf) I made for Lucy Gannon a number of years ago - reluctantly back for sale due to a house move!

Threes

Small work—bowls and jewellery boxes went out to Belgium (twice), Germany and Japan last year. Also on a theme of three, a complex project I tackled last year involved converting an old (at least Victorian) table top of Cuban mahogany into three boxes, one for each sibling of the family in whose ownership it had been for over a hundred years. Each box was of a different design and function to suit the owner, but had similar dimensions and volumes of timber used.

Design themes revolved around the family tree and the interests of the individuals, with the boxes being as large as possible. The logistics of marking out, with no waste, and no spare material....

Calendar of events 2005

- 30 April, 1,2 May **Concept for Living**,
Tatton Park, Knutsford, Cheshire
- 21,22 May **Food Fair, The Castle**,
Bolsover, Derbyshire
- 28 May **Open Workshop**, 1C Ravenstor
Road, Wirksworth, Derbyshire
- 4,5 June **British Designer Makers**, Village
Hall, Lapworth, Warwickshire
- 10 July **Artists and Designers Fair**,
Pavilion Gardens, Buxton, Derbyshire
- 20 August **Ashbourne Show**,
Osmaston Polo Ground, Derbyshire
- 10,11 Sept **Wirksworth Art & Architecture
Trail**, Wirksworth, Derbyshire
- 7,8,9 Oct **British Crafts**,
Paintworks, Bristol

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

Art & Architecture Trail

10-11th Sept 2005

Guest exhibitors at my workshop this year include Chris Hughes, a painter working in egg tempera and who produces her own paper, and Sarah Newton who sculpts human heads in a variety of media. Both are Derbyshire based.

The Wirksworth Festival website is updated nearer the time with forthcoming events:
www.wirksworthfestival.co.uk

A new guide for Wirksworth has just been published and, usefully, it lists local accommodation and eateries. If you are travelling to visit the A&A Trail and wish to stay overnight, I can send you a copy. Other local accommodation can be found on:
www.peakdistrictfarmhols.co.uk
Tel. 0781 7642627

Stocks of Work 2005

In preparation for exhibitions and general stock for the year are: maple cutting and cheese boards in all shapes (ellipse, garlic, cleaver and lemon), nested pair of tables in oak, maple and ebony occasional table and mirrors. Additionally, I have acquired a very limited stock of wonderfully figured spalted beech bowl blanks-the best I have seen in a long time-and these may be turned during the course of the year.

Forthcoming commissions:

Includes a set of nine internal doors in oak, the design of which incorporates elements of the building. The panel spaces in the doors are to be filled with clear or sandblasted glass or wood, depending upon the light levels required or privacy needed.

I will also be completing my first chess table during the course of the year, a very large affair in Zebrano.

New arrivals - timber

Always on the search for high quality timber, during the past twelve months I have acquired small stocks of several Australian timbers-Blue River Gum and Tasmanian Blackwood (both are red and rippled), burrs of Yellow Box, Red and Brown Mallee and two boards of She Oak. These have been supplemented by Cocobolo, quarter sawn London Plane and Thuya Burr. All of these timbers have been selected for their high decorative nature including grain patterns, texture and colour, and they join existing stocks of Purpleheart and Zebrano which are now being utilised in forthcoming commissions. If you are tempted by any of these, then the full stocks will be on view at my Open Workshop on 28 May, and a limited number of samples may be seen at the various other events being attended. As ever, these timbers supplement my main stocks of British, European and American woods.

Already some of the Australian timber has been selected out by a newly married couple to create a wedding present.



Grape Chair

Designed and built for a Bristol wine merchant in oak and purpleheart, the chair and its associated table was to provide a comfortable workstation. The visually simple design hints at its early Georgian surroundings, alludes to a barrel, incorporates 'grapes' (each increasing in diameter by 0.25mm towards base) which rotate and double as an 'abacus', and brings in part of the business letterhead. Small domaine French wines direct. www.vinetrail.co.uk

Marketing and Promotion

All events attended last year generated sales and commissions, with a surge of orders in January 2005 that will take approximately 12 months to complete.

Blanket chests

Orders for the blanket chest continue to roll in at the rate of one per year! To date, 10 have been built, including one to 1/3 scale fitted out as a jewellery box.



For sale - furniture designed and made for writer Lucy Gannon (Peak Practice, Soldier, Soldier, Bramwell, Dad)

Lucy Gannon is described as 'one of the country's most successful and original writers (BBC). The suite was made over five years ago.

Comprising three items: desk (as above, now with the addition of four drawers), bookcase in two parts-lower cabinet surmounted by an upper of open-framed shelves, and script cabinet. All pieces are made from a combination of oak and ash with ebony detailing.

Offers invited-please request details.