

Dining suite

Commissioned last year by a Nottingham family, this dining suite furniture (table, eight chairs, and sideboard) was in part inspired by an abstract painting of a stormy Rannoch Moor - which would share space with the new furniture. A trace of purpleheart, contrasting with the maple along with the selected leather, highlight elements of colour within the painting. The tall backed chairs surround the 7' long table creating a more intimate space for dining. The sideboard, also 7' in length, has a twin cabinet set in a heavy frame, handles being created by extending the purpleheart laminate forwards. Design themes incorporated include contrasting timbers, intersecting or overlapping laminated arches, tapers - some in the guise of a triangle, repeating unit of two and contrasting edges both hard and soft.



Invitation

*Derbyshire Open Arts (DARTS) - May/June 2006
 Workshop Open Days at 1C Ravenstor Road, Wirksworth*

Nicholas Hobbs Furniture

Current commissions to view and items under construction (dresser, corner cabinet, internal house doors in oak, bookcase), images of recent work (dining suite, TV cabinet), gallery with work for sale including wood turnings.

Jean Martin Textile Designer

Also during both weekends, Jean Martin, textile and clothing designer, will be showing her work which includes exclusive jackets, scarves, hats and handbags.

During the bank holiday weekend it is the Wirksworth Well Dressing, and the Ecclesbourne Valley Railway Association will be operating two lines out of Wirksworth station - the Ravenstor terminus is about 200 yards from the workshop.

Saturday 27th May

11 am - 5 pm

Thursday 1st June

9 am - 5.30 pm, 6 pm - 9 pm

Sunday 28th May

11 am - 5 pm

Friday 2nd June

9 am - 5 pm

Monday 29th May

9 am - 5 pm

Saturday 3rd June

11 am - 5 pm

Tuesday 30th May

9 am - 5.30 pm, 6 pm - 9 pm

Sunday 4th June

11 am - 5 pm

Wednesday 31st May

9 am - 5.30 pm, 6 pm - 9 pm

Full colour brochure for DARTS 2006 available on request.

Maple

Normally a timber I use only occasionally, the past twelve months have seen me work more maple than in the previous twelve years. Commissions for a king size bed headboard (trimmed with walnut) to blend with existing furniture, a sideboard (with contrast detail in ebony) for an entrance hall, and the dining suite for eight with matching sideboard as described overleaf have all been completed in maple. A pale, close grained timber, it demands great accuracy in working and offers a broad scope for contemporary design.

Furniture for sale

Originally commissioned by acclaimed TV Writer Lucy Gannon in 1998 to furnish her study. She moved to a smaller home last year, and I took the opportunity to purchase the work back from her. Shown below, the furniture is made from a combination of figured oak, ash and ebony. The designs feature abstracted elements of her former home, a 16th century manor house, but are of course adaptable to a more contemporary setting.

Desk



With four drawers in two removable cabinets giving flexibility for handwriting and PC use. Courtesy rail and freestanding cable screen.
Overall dimensions - 72" L x 24" D x 31" H.
Price - £3800.

Bookcase



In two parts - lower cabinet with paneled back surmounted by the upper of open framed shelves. Ebony bookslides with rear stop. Overall dimensions - 71" L x 83" H x 14" D.
Price - £3500.

Cabinet



Large cabinet with three doors giving access to substantial storage on shelves. Crockery, bottles, stationery, etc.
Overall dimensions - 60" L x 41" H x 30" D.
Price - £2200.

Education

Various aspects of education have emerged during the year, most lately by delivering a lecture to fifty plus attentive and enthusiastic students at Loughborough University. Most enjoyable - I must aim to do more of it! Also the cutting of a set of dovetails, for nesting tables which did not end as scrap, and whilst on public demonstration, has to mark as an achievement! Meanwhile enquiries for individual tuition continue, mainly from students and mature professionals.

Branding and Stamping

Since before the inception of the business in 1993, all furniture produced by myself has been identified by the stamping of my name, usually on the back or under surfaces. From January 2006 however, commissioned work only will additionally be branded with my initials and year of manufacture. The marks will further emphasize the unique and personal nature of my furniture whilst being both discrete and integral to each piece.

Forthcoming commissions

Seating is to the fore here, with a garden bench in oak preceding a pair of easy chairs in European cherry made from just two repeating components. Size adjustable prior to manufacture and with many other options available, the prototype will be available for trial and exhibition later in the year. Also on the order books is an ash settle, to grace the hallway of a converted barn in a Peak District village. On the drawing board is a speculative design for a chaise longue with stainless steel frame, leather upholstery and wooden detailing and trim (maple or zebrano). Any takers?

Calendar of events 2006

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|------------------------------|---|
| 27, 28, 29 May | Open Workshop |
| 3, 4 June | As part of the Derbyshire Open Arts Event
www.derbyshireopenarts.co.uk |
| 1, 2 July | British Designer Makers
Village Hall, Lapworth Warks |
| 19 August | Ashbourne Show
Osmaston Polo Ground, Derbyshire |
| 2, 3 September | Art in the Garden
Botanical Gardens, Sheffield |
| 12 September -
5 November | Ferrers Gallery "Mirror Mirror"
Staunton Harold, Melbourne, Leics
www.ferrersgallery.co.uk |
| 30 September -
1 October | British Crafts
Paintworks, Bristol
www.britishcrafts.co.uk |
| 7, 8 October | British Designer Makers
Village Hall, Benson, Oxfordshire |

Also look out for the Christmas Arts Market at Harley Gallery, Worksop, Nottinghamshire - dates to be confirmed.

Opening times for most events are 10am to 5pm. Should you require more details about specific events, please email me via the website or phone.

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