



Dr. David Guy likes changing up the living room in his Springfield home, so he worked with furniture maker Randy Weersing of Eugene on an eclectic array of pieces, some of which are interchangeable.

One-of-a-kind furniture puzzle

Eugene craftsman works with customers on piecing together custom designs, some with interchangeable forms

By Paul Omundson
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Photos by Kelly Lyon
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His pieces are inspiring, beautiful and comfortable (just sit in one of his chairs), all at the same time.

Whether they're "full hull boat urns," "minions bearing furniture," or any number of intriguing chairs, tables, desks and home offices, the unique furniture creations showcase Randy Weersing's artistry and skill in wood and metal, along with a mix of his customers' own creativity, too.

"When left to my own inclinations, I'd describe my work as contemporary with Asian, Art-Deco, Art-Nouveau, Arts & Crafts and modern influences," says Weersing, who opened his furniture design business in Eugene about 30 years ago.

Few artisans have such close connections to their customers.

"The design and engineering are the real crux of these things," he explains. "Actual construction is usually easy, sometimes challenging. But

the most satisfying part of all is getting into the client's own vision and then making it work. I like to see myself as a conduit for them to express their own creativity."

Fitting designs

One of Weersing's customers, Dr. David Guy, a biochemist who retired to Springfield from Indiana, loves this interaction with his furniture maker. Over the years, Guy has commissioned a seven-piece coffee table, three chairs, a corner cupboard and sideboard from Weersing. Each piece of furniture can be taken apart easily, like pieces in a jigsaw puzzle, and reassembled in various ways.

A stool or ottoman can become an end table; a couch can become a love seat. Tables and chairs morph into coffee tables or end tables. Weersing's flexible furniture fits any need.

It's the partnership with the artist that Guy treasures most. "Instead of him doing everything, it's more of a team thing," he emphasizes. "We both like furniture design, working in wood, and we both play off each other's ideas."

That's Weersing's idea of "customer service" — he wants them totally immersed in the design. If you're that kind of customer, he's the craftsman for you.

Building a business

Weersing had studied industrial design and art at Michigan State before moving to Eugene more than three decades ago for graduate studies at the University of Oregon.

He found Eugene to his liking, and has been here ever since.

Following the UO, he started out as a general contractor, working in remodeling and finish carpentry.

"Along the way, I started building furniture, and really found I liked that best," he says. "I always had an interest in art. I dribbled in other mediums, but nothing grabbed me until I got into furniture. What appealed to me was making something functional."



Hanging shelf makes use of corner space for art.

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As a kid, Weersing played in his dad's backyard sheet-metal and wood shops. "Building things in wood and metal was always a hobby," he says, fondly remembering learning artisan skills from his dad.

Weersing's next step was

to open Weersing Furniture Design, making custom builds in his own metal-working and wood shop/studio adjacent to his north Eugene home. He works mostly on commission for individuals, architects, interior designers and other artists to create unique objects for home and workplace.

Unique creations

Weersing calls his creations "of the moment furniture," because a final version for a particular piece depends on the customer and his or her specific vision and needs.

A whole stew of other variables includes his own magic, and whatever woods and metals he has at hand.

Examples range from multipurpose

puzzle pieces to hanging wall cabinets:

- "Conundrum" modular table set. In the spirit of the puzzle-piece furniture crafted for Dr. Guy, this is a collection of seven sculptural forms that can be used individually or put together in countless configurations.

You name it. You can construct coffee or cocktail tables, end tables, side tables, ottomans, stools, pedestals or stand-alone sculptural pieces.

"I started these puzzle tables five years ago," he says. "The possibilities are endless."

- Corner totem. This design is a corner cabinet and shelving system for displaying a pottery collection or something similar in an odd, angled corner. The unit suspends from the wall and



Copper inlays on the hanging shelf.

incorporates adjustable shelving and embossed patina copper elements.

By the way, oddly angled furniture is one of Weersing's specialties.


Just ask Guy where the artist nicely accommodated his home's untraditional angles.

- A line of wooden cremation urns and art objects can be seen on Weersing's website. Click on the Lacewood Cube Urn at weersingfurniturestudio.com.

- For sheer grandeur, opulence and cool design, take a look at his corporate and board room furnishings and office environments.

Weersing explains the mystery and beauty of his works: "Objects that surround us at home and in the workplace have a subtle but profound effect on the quality of our lives, both physically and psychologically," he notes. "Surroundings that are satisfying in function, to the eye and to the touch, are satisfying to the soul."

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 **View a video** at registerguard.com/homeandgarden



Randy Weersing in his metal and woodworking shop in north Eugene.



Weersing collaborated with Guy on each furniture piece for Guy's home. The two like working with wood and "play off each other's ideas," Guy says.