



D O V E T A L E

MCKINNON FURNITURE'S QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

New Catalog



For all you dedicated "McKinnonites" who know we began as a futon company, you also know we have evolved dramatically since then. The process continues. In fact, we have added a number of new designs since our last catalog was printed in August of 2003. You will notice new media cabinets, a bistro table, a double pedestal dining table that seats up to 18 people, a hall tree, upholstery pieces and several metal collections incorporating bronzed steel and copper. These are just samples of the new designs you can expect to see in the catalog which becomes effective **June 27th, 2005**.

We welcome you to drop by our showroom to view these new items for yourselves. The new catalog will include some increased prices so if you are interested in adding to your McKinnon collection, you may want to order prior to June 27th. We look forward to seeing you and showing you the new showroom and designs.

AWARDS

McKinnon Receives High Acclaim

We've always taken pride in the products and services we offer. However, never before have we been officially awarded for it...until now, that is. Recently published is a book entitled, *Furniture Hot Spots*, written by Jennifer Litwin. She compiled her research into a book of "must see" furniture venues from coast to coast. Stores were graded on price, personnel, ambience and quality. We are proudly featured among the best! Of course we have a copy of her book in our showroom, so please feel free to take a look next time you visit us.

Additionally, I'm sure many of you are familiar with the local magazine, "Northwest Home + Garden." Their March 2005 issue featured an article entitled, "123 Best Places to Shop." We landed ourselves in their article as well! It goes without saying, we are very excited about receiving high mention in both of these publications.

RAVELLO SHOW HOUSE

Fundraising Home Tour

We are pleased to be participating sponsors of the Ravello Show House on Queen Anne which will be open to the public from May 27 - July 3. The members the West Edge Home Furnishings District are providing the furniture and accessories for this one-of-a-kind home, which showcases the highest quality workmanship, materials, and products for residential design.

Located in an exclusive Queen Anne neighborhood with expansive 180 degree views, this 18 room, Mediterranean inspired, villa is open for public tours on six weekends from May 27 - July 3. Tickets are \$10 each and may be purchased at McKinnon Furniture, or in advance online at www.ravelloseattle.com, or at the door for \$12. Ticket sales will benefit the Windermere Foundation and Childhaven. The website also contains information on the hours and parking. You will need to park at

2919 1st Ave W (formerly North Queen Anne Elementary school) and take the shuttle service to the home. We hope you will take this opportunity to visit this architecturally beautiful home.



Bistro Table & Secretary Desk

McKinnon meets Irish pub with our new "Bistro Table". This table is great for anyone who is in the market for a dining table but has more of a dining "nook" than a dining room! The standard dimensions for this table are a 36" diameter with a height of 39". We can, of course, build it for you with a larger diameter. However, due to its pedestal base, there will be a limit to how large we can go, as we're sure you can imagine. The table is displayed in our showroom in cherry, with the standard dimensions noted



▲ Above: New bistro table

above, for \$1,475.00. It is available in maple and mahogany for the same price. For a 15% upcharge, we are happy to build it in black walnut or Lyptus ©.

Also, we have put the handcrafted quality of McKinnon into an antique style desk to create the Secretary desk. This design, as with most of our new pieces, was created based on your feedback, so thank you! As you can see, we have included the

office, or any space that calls for a stylish method for organization of mail or bills, and it even has room for a laptop. You have your choice of hardwoods, and we welcome customization to fit your space and needs.



▲ Above: Upcoming Secretary desk

drawing to give you an idea of what is to come. It will be a beautiful addition to your home

EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHTS INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



◀ Left:
Todd Hewitt

Todd Hewitt will celebrate his fifth year with

McKinnon Furniture in July. Todd is a very talented designer and woodworker who oversees the building of all of our home office products. In addition, he has been active in teaching younger workers to become better craftspeople, and has been active on our design team to create new products.

Todd grew up in Lander, Wyoming, where he first learned to love working with wood. While in school, he worked in construction, including building pole barns. After school, he began his own business building log furniture.

(continued on back page)

Seattle Wood Construction Center

McKinnon Furniture and the Seattle Wood Construction Center have joined together to create an internship program in which woodworking students spend part of their week in classes, and part of their week working at the McKinnon shop. At this time, we have three student interns: Andy Neely, Arlen Olsen, and Jed Chapman.

McKinnon Furniture benefits from the arrangement by getting help from talented and enthusiastic students of woodworking. The students gain real world experience in their chosen field. Don Khile, instructor in the cabinetmaking program, says that students who spend time in the field return to class with more focus and a higher level of intensity.

The Wood Construction Center (formerly known as Gompers) provides full time classes in Cabinetmaking, Carpentry, and Marine Carpentry. The program started as part of Edison Technical College in 1936, and was absorbed by Seattle Central Community

College when the community college system began in 1967.

Approximately 130 students learn fine woodworking, boat building, and carpentry from experienced faculty, many of whom graduated from the school. The program emphasizes safety, craftsmanship, and hands on training to develop a high level of woodworking skills. Ninety percent of graduates are employed in the woodworking or construction trades.

McKinnon Furniture and the Wood Construction Center have enjoyed a good relationship for many years. Many of our current and former craftsmen were graduates of the program, and the school has helped our company find skilled workers for part time work as well as career employees. Sheila McKinnon has been on the Advisory Committee for the school for several years, and in 2001 received their Volunteer Service Award.

McKinnon Adds Warmth to Showroom



▲ Above: Backstrap loom weaving

McKinnon is pleased to introduce a new line of fabrics! We now proudly offer beautifully woven textiles from the island of Cojol Ya in Guatemala. These art textiles come from the Cojol Ya Association of Maya Women Weavers, a non-profit organization "dedicated to the preservation of back-strap loom weaving and the ancient traditions which surround it."

Backstrap loom weaving is "an ancient art, recorded in the artifacts of the Maya." It has

been in existence for thousands of years. Due to various conditions, however, the existence of this form of weaving was almost lost. That is until a woman named Candis Krummel became involved.

Candis Krummel is co-founder of Cojol Ya Association of Maya Women Weavers. In 1983, she left a career in politics in the U.S. and settled onto Cajol Ya to live a life more harmonious with nature. She saw that this very important form of weaving would be lost unless someone stepped up to preserve it. It was then, with the help of two native friends, that she set out to do just that.

Today, the Association serves not just as a "historical relic," but also as a way for these skilled artists to make a living transforming threads into truly wonderful textiles. Their customer base is growing, too, including such

clients as The Textile Museum of Washington, D.C., Simon Pearce and Michael Graves Design, not to mention the many designers who have benefited from textiles by the yard. This is great news, not only because their talent deserves acclaim, but also because it supports the Association's goal, which is to expand tradition and economic stability further across Guatemala.

You can see why we feel lucky to have been recommended to be a part of this. For more detailed information about Cojol Ya Association of Maya Women Weavers, please visit www.cjolya.org.

We have samples of these beautiful textiles in our showroom so please take a minute during your next visit to admire the beautiful table runners, throws, pillows and other items which will add wonderful textures to your home.

NOTES FROM THE SHOP



◀ Left: Sheila McKinnon

New Finish for Dining Tables

At the request of our customers, M c K i n n o n Furniture has

been searching for a more durable finish for our dining tables. While we have always liked the silky smooth feel of a hand rubbed oil finish, it doesn't offer enough protection against damage caused by the kind of use most dining tables receive.

At last we have found a finish that will provide more protection, but will have a smooth feel and still allow the cherry to age naturally. It is a Sherwin Williams product called KemVar, a conversion varnish that is catalyzed for a harder finish. The finish is



▲ Above: Hand sanding

sprayed on, and has a lustrous sheen. It is resistant to moisture, chemicals and organic solvents, and creates a much harder surface finish.

We performed some informal tests at the shop, and we have found the KemVar to be quite durable. It seems to be impervious to hot tea,

coffee, cola, or water left on the surface for several hours. We have put hot plates directly on the surface, and spilled food on it, without apparent damage. We don't recommend this kind of abuse, of course, but it does persuade us that KemVar will be what our customers have asked for: a more lasting finish

for everyday use of dining tables. The KemVar finish will become standard on all of our dining tables ordered after June 27, when our new catalog goes into effect. We will also offer the new finish on any of our other products for an additional charge.

For those of you with existing McKinnon dining tables, we will offer a refinishing service using the KemVar. The cost will be \$400 plus delivery charges, and you can expect to be without your table for 2 – 3 weeks. If you would like to have your table refinished, please call Dave at the shop (206-768-2484) to make arrangements.

We are continually trying to improve our products and processes. We appreciate the feedback we receive from our customers, and hope you will continue to let us know how we can make our furniture work better for you.



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Return Service Requested

206.622.6474 Local
800.532.5461 Toll Free
206.622.4217 Fax

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U.S. Postage
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SUMMER 2005

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EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHTS:

Todd Hewitt

NEW PRODUCTS:

Bistro Table & Secretary Desk



HOME FURNISHINGS DISTRICT
www.WestEdgeHome.com



DESIGN UPDATES



◀ Left: Renee Ripper

Space Planning Tips

Besides helping clients with color and fabric selection, one of

the number one requests is for space planning. I've included a few handy tips below that will help with furniture placement in your room.

First, freehand your space on paper and write down the measurements of the walls, windows and doors. Also take note of outlets and heating vents. Draw the space to scale on graph paper, making each square equal to one foot (this is 1/4" scale). Next, measure your pieces of furniture (or pieces from McKinnon you are going to order) and draw them on 3 x 5 note cards, or other paper, and cut them out.

Placing your furniture cut-outs on the floor plan will make it easier to try all the possibilities. It's easiest to start with the largest piece, since it will have the least amount of possibilities,

and then accompany it with the smaller pieces. Move the paper around to see the room from different vantage points. Be open to these pieces floating in the room and not always needing to be against the wall. You might also consider putting the furniture grouping at an angle. Looking at design magazines to see how others have placed furnishings in a room always sparks good ideas too.

Keep the following measurements in mind while moving around your pieces: 18" is a good distance for the coffee table to be from the front of sofa; 36" is the right amount of space for a walkway receiving a medium amount of traffic; 48" is better for high traffic areas; 36" is also a good distance from the edge of a dining table to a wall, walkway or buffet.

You can always hire me to do the floor plan for you if you don't have the time or patience.

It would be my pleasure to help you create the perfect space plan for your home.

Renee Ripper

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(Employee Highlights cont. from page 2)

At the University of Wyoming, Todd studied graphic design. But he missed the hands-on satisfaction of woodworking, finding the three-dimensional art more creative than two-dimensional. So he enrolled in the Art Institute of Seattle, where he graduated with honors in Industrial Design. His work is still featured in their catalog.

Todd has been married to his high school sweetheart Dee for eight years. In addition to his work at McKinnon Furniture, he has made some commission pieces using his original contemporary designs.