Spring 2013 Newsletter

Center *for* Furniture Craftsmanship

FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Center for Furniture Craftsmanship first opened its doors on Monday, June 28, 1993. The shop was in a small barn behind the old Maine farmhouse where I still live. That summer and fall I taught nine two-week classes to six students at a time. One thing led to another, many hands pitched in, and to my own delight (and not a little amazement), the Center grew into the thriving nonprofit school that it is today—with an outstanding international faculty, a dedicated professional staff, a visionary Board of Directors, a generous community of support, a handsome campus, and, most importantly, a deeply engaged student body.

This 20th-anniversary year is off to a strong start. We are building new turning and finishing studios to improve current programs and pave the way for significant new ones. The quantity of scholarships we award to workshops has almost doubled. Requests for assistantships have hit an all-time high, as have applications to the Studio Fellowship Program. Most exciting of all, a record number of qualified applicants have sought admission to the Nine-month Comprehensive.

Who would have imagined, as those first half-dozen students flattened chisels in a workshop still under construction, that in two decades more than 1,200 Basic Woodworking alumni would have surmounted that same initial hurdle? Who could have imagined, for that matter, that the textbook I wrote for the course would be published in Chinese and Korean, as it recently has?

The work of a school is emphatically cyclical. Instructors, staff, and Board keep their shoulders to the wheel as courses and events whirl through their annual revolution. Still, life moves in unexpected and exciting new directions. New participants bring fresh interests and talents into the school community, the culture around us inexorably changes, and we respond, adapt, and advance into new territory. Over the school's next decade, may we continue to work with integrity, to teach with generosity, and to assist every student in finding creative excellence and personal satisfaction through the practice of craft.

NEW FACILITIES UNDER CONSTRUCTION

In April we broke ground on a 1,420-square-foot addition to the Jackson Building. The new wing, which will become the school's Woodturning Studio, is half again as large as our current (and currently cramped) lathe room. The former lathe room will be retrofitted with two spray booths and a make-up air unit to become a much-needed, dust-free, year-round Finishing Studio.

With ready access to the machine room of the Jackson Building, the addition creates a versatile, two-room space that makes it possible to initiate exciting new programs such as the Twelve-week Turning Intensive scheduled for January, 2014. Other new curricula under consideration include professional-track Twelve-week Intensives in finishing and carving. We will also be able to expand our program of Community Classes, which now focus on turning, into areas of skill such as carving, marquetry, drawing, and finishing.

The new Turning Studio under construction.

Preserving the intimate scale of the school is a priority, so new programs will be scheduled to keep the number of students on campus within the current maximum of 54. However, by making more efficient use of our current resources, new courses should enable the school to run much closer to full capacity throughout the year.

Generous funding for this project comes from the Communities Foundation of Texas, the Davis Family Foundation, the Mattina R. Proctor Foundation, the Windgate Charitable Foundation, and the 1916 Foundation. We hope to complete the construction and outfitting of our new Turning and Finishing Studios by August.

Center *for* Furniture Craftsmanship

Center for Furniture Craftsmanship is a non-profit 501(c)(3) educational organization. Our mission is to provide the best possible education for people who want to design and build functional, beautiful, expressive work out of wood to the highest standard of craftsmanship.

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The Center for Furniture Craftsmanship does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, or sexual orientation.

25 Mill Street, Rockport, ME 04856
(207) 594-5611
cfc@woodschool.org
www.woodschool.org
www.facebook/CenterforFurnitureCraftsmanship

FACULTY NEWS

Ted Blachly (Warner, NH) organized the show "Just Chairs," at the NH Furniture Masters Gallery in Concord, NH through June 11. Exhibitors include instructors Ted Blachly, **Jon Brooks** (New Boston, NH), **Garrett Hack** (Thetford Center, VT), **Terry Moore** (Wilmot, NH), **Jere Osgood** (Wilton, NH), **John McAlevey** (Warren, ME), and **Tim Rousseau** (Appleton, ME), plus alumnus **Brian Weir** (South Dartmouth, ME).

John Reed Fox (Acton, MA) wrote "Choosing and Using Japanese Chisels" for the June 2013 issue of *Fine Woodworking*, where **Peter Galbert** (Sterling, MA) has an article on "Turning Furniture Parts."

David Haig (Nelson, New Zealand) was featured in the Master Class section of *Fine Woodworking* (Jan/Feb 2013) with an article on "Curved Panels for Furniture."

Instructors **Silas Kopf** (Northampton, MA) and **Matthias Pliessnig** (Pawtucket, RI), and alumnus **Mark Moskovitz** (University Heights, OH), are represented in the traveling exhibition "Against the Grain: Wood in Contemporary Art, Craft and Design" at the Museum of Arts and Design in New York, through Sept. 15.

A desk by **Aled Lewis** (Powys, Wales) was featured on the back cover of *Fine Woodworking* (April 2013), which also included articles by **Michael Fortune** (Lakefield, ONT) and **Doug Stowe** (Eureka Springs, AR), plus a bed by **Peter Turner** (South Portland, ME) in the Readers Gallery.

Peter Buley as a Twelve-week student in 2008.

Peter Buley (Brooklyn, NY) exhibited at New York's Architectural Digest Home Design Show in April, sharing his booth with alumnus **Bobby Sukrachand** (Ridgewood, NY). Peter is also exhibiting at Bklyn Designs, from May 10-12.

ALUMNI NEWS

Ray Finan (Arlington, VT) published "Triangle Table" in the April issue of *Fine Woodworking* and was an exhibitor at the American Fine Craft Show in Norwalk, CT in April.

Duncan Gowdy (Holden, MA), **Monica Raymond** (Rockland, ME), and **Michael Scarborough** (Sunnyside Gardens, NY) were exhibitors at CraftBoston, as were instructors **Eben Blaney** (Edgecomb, ME) and **Kevin Rodel** (Brunswick, ME). A desk by Monica was also featured in the Readers Gallery of *Fine Woodworking* (June, 2013).

Mat Driscoll (shown here during his Nine-month Comprehensive in 2010) has just had a chair published on the cover of American Craft*'s 2013 Bonus Issue: The Craft of Design.*

A bar stool by **Reed Hansuld** (Mississauga, ON) was featured in the Design Spotlight of the April issue of *Fine Woodworking*. Reed's Rocking Chair No. 2 was juried into Do Design 2013, which took place in Toronto in January.

Peter Hedstrom is in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam designing for Global Home, a company that produces wooden furniture for the Asian, Australian, and European markets.

Ryan Meacham (Chester Springs, PA) won the Emerging Artist Competition at the Philadelphia Invitational Furniture Show, which was held April 5-7.

Jesse Shaw (Savannah, GA) is a semi-finalist in the Street Seats Design Challenge sponsored by the Design Museum of Boston.

Brian Weir and **Corwin Butterworth** (Wakefield, RI) were represented last winter in "Please Be Seated" at Gallery 65 in New Bedford, MA.

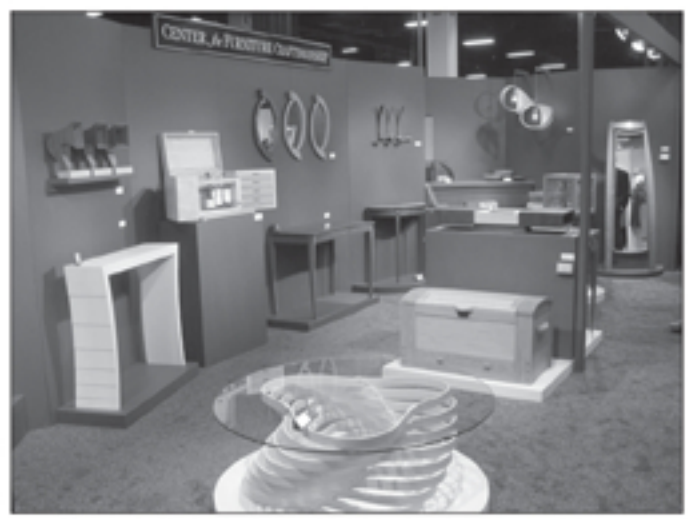
2013 WORKSHOP AVAILABILITY

There's still time to sign up and spend a week or two in beautiful Maine this summer!
The following workshops have space available as of publication. Fully enrolled workshops are not listed.

Please call 207-594-5611 for inquiries and enrollment.

INTRODUCTION TO TURNING **Stephen Gleasner** June 3-7	FINISHING FROM A TO Z **Teri Masaschi** August 26-September 6
TURNED AND CARVED VESSELS **John Jordan** June 17-21	INTERMEDIATE FURNITURE MAKING **Peter Shepard** September 9-20
DESIGNING WITH CAD **Paul Loebach** June 24-28	HAND-APPLIED FINISHES **Teri Masaschi** September 9-13
BASIC WOODWORKING **Peter Korn & Guest Instructors** July 1-12; July 29-Aug. 9; Aug. 26-Sept. 6; Oct. 7-18	TURNING FUNDAMENTALS **Alan Lacer** September 16-20
ADIRONDACK CHAIRS FOR BEGINNERS **Pete Schlebecker** July 15-19	WOODTURNING II **Alan Lacer** September 23-27
A CNC PRIMER **Randy Johnson** July 22-26	THE ART OF CONTAINMENT **Clay Foster & Jennifer Shirley** September 30-October 4
LEARN TO TURN **Beth Ireland** July 29-August 2	BUILDING AN ELEGANT WINDSOR ROCKER **Elia Bizzarri** October 7-18
NEXT STEPS IN TURNING **Beth Ireland** August 5-9	
EXPLORING THE CURVE **Matthias Pliessnig** August 12-23	
SURFACE DESIGN ON THIN-WALLED TURNINGS **Binh Pho** August 12-16	

Visit www.woodschool.org for details about each course.



Our Nine-month Comprehensive students had a successful showing at this year's CraftBoston, April 19 - 21, 2013.

MESSLER GALLERY NEWS

CALL FOR ENTRIES

Maine Wood 2014 Biennial Exhibition
January 24 - April 2, 2014

We are pleased to announce the Call for Entries for our fourth Maine Wood Biennial.The exhibition is designed to showcase the breadth, creativity, and excellence of wood craftsmanship in the state, and to help promote the artistic and economic development of Maine's growing community of fine woodworkers. The jurors for "Maine Wood 2014" are Asa Christiana, Editor, *Fine Woodworking*, Jonathan Fairbanks, Director, Fuller Craft Museum, and Laura Mays, Director, Fine Woodworking Program, College of the Redwoods.

Application Deadline: August 31, 2013

Awards: Six awards with prizes totaling $2,000.

Additional information and submission guidlines are available at www.woodschool.org/wood-school-gallery/call-for-entries.

Exclusive media sponsor: Maine Home+Design Magazine

Co-sponsoring organizations include: Kennebec Valley Woodworkers Association, Maine Craft Association, Maine Woodturners, Maine Woodworkers Association, and Southern Maine Woodturners.

Purchase Award winners Libby Scrum and Eben Blaney (left) with Peter Korn and Farnsworth Museum Director Chris Brownawell at the opening of "Designing Benches: Farnsworth Competition Finalists" on January 18, 2013.

MESSLER GALLERY EXHIBITION SCHEDULE

Current Student Work
April 26 - May 29, 2013

New Work by Faculty
June 14 - September 11, 2013

Turning Twenty
September 20 - January 15, 2013

CENTER *for* FURNITURE CRAFTSMANSHIP
25 Mill Street, Rockport, Maine 04856

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