

David Orth
Furniture Artist and Sculptor

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Selected Exhibitions

- 2006 *MENTALMETAL, Function+Art Gallery, Chicago.*
- 2005 *SUSTAINABLE FURNITURE, The Chicago Cultural Center, curated by John Kriegshauser & Lee Weitzman.*
- 2005 *UNBUILDABLE, The Furniture Society (digital modeling exhibition displayed digitally at the annual FS conference.) Curated by Tom Loeser and Wendy Maruyama.*
- 2001 *BEYOND FUNCTION: THE ART OF FURNITURE, The Chicago Cultural Center.*
- 1999 *DAVID ORTH & VORTEX DESIGN:
4 GENERATIONS, 1 SINGLE THREAD,
Chicago Athenaeum Museum of Architecture and Design.*
- 1998 *LITURGICAL AND SACRED ART, Springfield Art Association,
Springfield, IL.*
- 1997 *ARTFUL FURNITURE, Evanston Art Center,
Evanston, IL. Curated by Michelle Rowe-Shields.*
- 1992 *NEW CHICAGO FURNITURE, Chicago Athenaeum
to
1996 Museum of Architecture & Design, annual exhibition
and awards.*
- 1994 *FUNCTION/DYSFUNCTION, Gwenda Jay Gallery, Chicago.*
- 1993 *TABLESERVICE SONATA, National dining-table & accessory
competition sponsored by the Springfield Art Association.*
- 1992 *TRADITIONS & TRANSITIONS: AMISH & MENNONITE EXPRESSION IN VISUAL ART,
Canton Art Institute, Canton, Ohio. Curated by Stanley Kaufman.*
- 1991 *DAVID ORTH: FURNITURE & SCULPTURE, Loyola University Fine Arts Gallery, Chicago.*
- 1991 *FURNITURE OF THE 90'S, Franklin Parrasch Gallery, New York, and American Society of
Furniture Artists, Houston, TX. Juried by Franklin Parrasch, Rick Snyderman, and Adam
St.John.*

Selected Commissions & Collections

"Water from the Rock", a Tallit and kippot sculpture, Congregation Beth Am, Buffalo Grove, IL, 2006.

Portico, The Gurdjieff Society of IL (Covered outdoor meeting and entryway space - Alden, IL.)

Processional cross, St. Eulalia Church, Maywood, IL. 1998.

Torah Holder, Oak Park Temple - B'nai Abraham Zion. 1993.

Coffee table, dining table, & serving unit, Carl Rogers House, Oak Park, IL, collectors George & Nita Kubricht. 1988 - 1992.

Processional cross and Hiroshima Memorial, Church of St. Giles, Oak Park, IL. 1991.

Communion table/altar, Oak Park Mennonite Church, Oak Park, IL, 1990.

Foyer table, H.P. Young House, Oak Park, IL, interior remodeling architect Frank Lloyd Wright, collectors Louis & Joan Mercuri. 1988.

Dining table and lighting, George Furbeck House, Oak Park, architect Frank Lloyd Wright, collectors Mr. & Mrs. Kouvel. 1987.

Tabernacle, St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, Glen Ellyn, IL, architects Buderus, Sunshine, and Jager. 1986.

Dining table, Charles E. Roberts House, Oak Park, interior remodeling architect Frank Lloyd Wright, collectors Mr. & Mrs. Lofgren. 1986.

Podium, Unity Church of Oak Park, 1984.

... and around 500 other corporate and residential commissions.

Free Lance Design for Furniture Industry

Orth has been a furniture designer/artisan since 1978. He began designing for manufacture in 1995. In this time he has completed realized design work for Ello Manufacturing Company, Elite Manufacturing, Stratus, The Lam Lee Group, and Costantini – companies in Rockford, Los Angeles, Madison, China/Phillipines/Dallas, and Italy. This has required visits to the High Point Furniture Market, some work at the manufacturing sites, digital modeling, digital file transfer, and web-based communication.

Selected Bibliography, Media, & Reviews

Almanac, Connecticut Home & Garden Magazine, Fall 2006, p. 13.

Patrick F. Cannon, Hometown Architect, 2006, p. 57 (dining table & light fixture in FLWright house).

Polly Ullrich, "Heavy Metal", Metalsmith Magazine, Fall 2005, p. 58.

Pat Gerlach, "Artfully Made", West Suburban Living Magazine, May/June 2004, p.86-88.

David Orth, "The Riddle of Craft", Material For Thought (on line issue), 2004, www.farwesteditions.com.

Muskan Taurani, "Art as Furniture", Latest Magazine (published in the United Arab Emirates), November 2003, pp. 70-73.

Chicago Home & Garden Magazine, Spring 2003, p.114.

Featured on Ron Hazelton's House Calls (TV), January 2003.

Woodwork Magazine, December 2002, pp. 52 & 53.

Log Home Design Ideas Magazine, January 2002, pp. 170-173

Hyun Jin Lee, "David Orth", Crart (Korean Craft & Art magazine), July 2002, pp. 94-97.

Spencer Hart, Wright Rooms, Chartwell Books, 1998, p. 106. Dining table and light for George Furbeck House.

Robin Langley Sommer, The Genius of Frank Lloyd Wright, Barnes & Noble, NY, 1997. Foyer table on page 41.

Design Book Six, The Taunton Press, 1992, p. 67.

Design Book Five, The Taunton Press, 1990, p.37.

Design Book Four, The Taunton Press, 1987, p.48.

Carla Lind, The Wright Style, Simon & Schuster, 1992, pp.199,200 & 217.

Elizabeth Horner, "Prairie Pieces", Inland Architect, May-June 1991, pp.7-9.

Nancy Stetson, "A Design Philosophy", Chicago Tribune, April 14, 1991, Sec. 15, pp. 1 & 3.

Diane Douglass, "Chicago 1984: Contemporary Furniture," New Art Examiner, June 1984, p.20.

Selected Awards & Honors

By and large I just haven't taken time to apply to awarding bodies, but for whatever it is worth there has been some minor recognition listed below:

2nd Place. LITURGICAL AND SACRED ART, Springfield Art Association, 1998.

Award of Excellence. NEW CHICAGO FURNITURE 1994, Chicago Athenaeum.

1st Place. TABLESERVICE SONATA, Springfield Art Association. 1993.

Award of Excellence. NEW CHICAGO FURNITURE EXHIBITION & AWARDS. Chicago Athenaeum, 1993. Judged by Marisa Bartolucci, Maggie Daley, Mary Daniels, Richard Donat & Anders Nereim.

Finalist. AMERICAN SOCIETY OF FURNITURE ARTISTS COMPETITION, Houston, TX, 1991. Juried by Franklin Parrasch, Rick Snyderman, and Adam St.John.

Teaching/Lecture

Academic Course Development and Implementation:

WOODWORKING: Sculpture Department, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, 1996?.

FURNITURE DESIGN I: Interior Architecture Department, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, 1998.

FURNITURE DESIGN I: Designed Objects Department, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, 2004.

BRONZE FABRICATION: Marc Adams School of Woodworking (MASW), Indianapolis 2005 & 2006.

FURNITURE DESIGN: Interior Design Department, College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn, IL, 2006 & 2008.

HAMMER VENEERING: MASW, Indianapolis 2006.

METALSMITHING FOR THE WOODWORKER, MASW, 2007

BUILDING A CURVY TABLE, Marc MASW, 2007

BUILDING A STEREOSCOPE & STEREO PHOTOGRAPHY, MASW, 2007

Forthcoming: SELECTING, MILLING, & SQUARING WOOD, MASW, 2008

Lecture and Presentation: Illinois Institute of Technology, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, University of Illinois at Chicago, Ray College of Design, College of DuPage, Loyola University, Judson College, Triton College, International Academy of Merchandising and Design.

Founder and director of one year, full-time internship in the furniture arts. 1989 -present.

Education

MA, Philosophy, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL. 1979. (Emphasis on Phenomenology, Aesthetics, and the Philosophy of Technology.



David & Sarah Orth at Gaudi's Parc Guell, Barcelona

Born 1953 Dallas, Texas. Since his childhood David Orth has resided at length in Texas, Costa Rica, Guatemala, North Carolina, and Chicago. Growing up in foreign countries gave the young David daily access to ancient Mayan ruins, and friendships with astonishing craftsmen that worked without electricity or store bought tools. Since 1972, Orth has lived and worked in the Chicago area.

Orth is recognized as one of Chicago's top furniture artists, as an innovative educator, and a furniture industry designer. He is a member of The Furniture Society and the Chicago Furniture Designers Association (serving on its board of directors from 1999-2004). Orth's furniture & sculpture has been featured in museums and galleries since the early 1980's. DAVID ORTH & VORTEX DESIGN: 4 GENERATIONS, 1 SINGLE THREAD, a special focus of the Chicago Athenaeum's NEW CHICAGO FURNITURE VIII, featured Orth's work, apprenticeship program, and the work of his graduates at Vortex Design. FURNITURE OF THE 90'S selected Orth as one of 25 American furniture artists and was exhibited in New York at the Franklin Parrasch Gallery and in Houston at the American Society of Furniture Artists.

In college and graduate school, David took a road less traveled by artists and received two degrees in philosophy. Surprisingly, this 'detour' took him right to the heart of design and craft issues where he had the time to discover the essential connections between thinking, living, and building. Orth believes that art is an opportunity to understand something important about life. For him, furniture - the sculpture we all live closest to - is a thread of connection between our ordinary, daily life and the insane immensity of the universe. Finding connections between the ordinary and the extraordinary, or between the ancient and the modern, continue to be major themes of his work.

David strives for a fresh, absolute architecture that needs little decoration and does not track popular trends. Each design is a fresh effort to reach down below the surface of busyness, superficial amusement, and group behavior that vex our daily routines. He is searching for something more delicious and haunting - a flavor, or a scent you almost didn't catch. David often draws his clients into this enjoyable discovery process. The furniture and sculpture that result are broadly appealing and satisfying.