

# Zongkers Custom Furniture Workshop News



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AUGUST 2007

## We Call It "King Bed"

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 King Bed
- 2 Marquetry of Roses
- 3 Craftsman Spot Light  
Wood of the Month  
Production of Furniture

- 4 Recipe's

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***We live in a world  
where lemonade is  
made from artificial  
flavoring and  
furniture polish is  
made from real  
lemons.***

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*Unfinished  
Solid Cherry and Maple Burl  
Shown in shop prior to entering finishing booth  
Shipping to Louisiana*



This is a unique one-of-a-kind Custom made King size bed. "We Call It, "King Bed"

This is an excellent example of the quality of something made, as by an artisan. The skill of the craftsman who put, "Quality in front of Quantity."

A Craftsman is a worker who practices a trade and one who creates to individual specifications for a custom order like this king size bed. Because of it being the first and only bed of its kind to be made, there are times when the schedule can sometimes not go as once planned. This doesn't only affect the time of completion for this project, but the ones that are scheduled behind it.

There are many who understand what it takes to have something custom built, and know that there are times when things just don't go as planned. This is different than putting in a back order from your local furniture store. Where mass production on one single item, which is done by machine, is more important to produce in quantity and not necessary to produce "Quality."

The end result is what matters the most and to produce a product of such excellent craftsmanship and of a Quality that will last thru several generations. That is the Zongkers Promise.

Since each and every project is uniquely designed specifically for the customer, we do not have a showroom. We welcome tours of our facility, which enables the customer to see first hand how everything is taken from the first stages of design, through to the finished product. We are proud of each and every piece and many are displayed on our website for your review at: [www.zongkers.com](http://www.zongkers.com)



**Telecommunication Conference Table**

A unique changeable table system with easy-open design and complete wire management.

**Wood Of The Month**

An African hardwood, Curly Anigre The wood is creamy in color and has a natural luster and has a cedar-like scent. The heartwood is a yellow white, pale tan or pink brown and the wood darkens in color after exposure. It most often has a straight grain, but the grain can also appear to be wavy. Anigre wood is naturally lustrous and polishes beautifully.



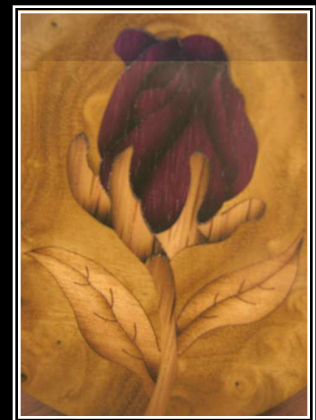
**Dennis Zongker's Work Bench**  
*Marquetry of Roses*

Very few artisans practice the craft of Marquetry. Those that do however are proud and remain true to the traditions of the profession. Marquetry techniques are complex and diverse but offer greater decorative possibilities. Observing an artisan working on marquetry, the slow and precise movements, and the accurate cutting of the saw, takes great skill and patience. Each piece of wood is carefully selected to create the most beautiful design.

These are pictures of the Marquetry that is being done by Dennis Zongker, to the end table top. Marquetry is the art of combining small pieces of different kinds of wood, using their natural colors to create a beautiful design.



Completed center rose and template  
^^(Shown above) ^^



Completed corner rose and template  
^^(Shown above) ^^

Marquetry applied to the end table top >>



## Craftsman Spotlight



Jeff Hauptman

Jeff has been with Zongkers for two years. He has been doing woodworking for nearly 5 years now. His attention to details and patience has proven to be an asset to our company.

In Jeff's spare time he enjoys restoring old cars. He is currently working on a 1928 Chevy.

### Quote of the Day

"Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at 20 or 80. Anyone who keeps learning stays young."

~ Henry Ford ~

### Customer Letter

Dear Dan, Dennis, Curt & Mike,

We returned to our house Friday (After 8 weeks) to find a beautifully installed unit awaiting.... the cabinet is wonderful and we are very pleased with it's aesthetics and the nice functioning drawers, doors etc. Curt & Mike are true craftsmen and it was pretty painless working with you all... just go away and "poof" , it's done!

Sincerely, Tina & Dale

### The Guys Behind the Name

Many in the furniture business told Dennis and Dan that they wouldn't make it in the business because they weren't mass-producing and didn't have a lot of machinery. They both believe that the faster it was built the faster it would fall apart. Dennis and Dan's goal is to provide their customers with quality-handcrafted furniture that would someday become an antique passed down for generations.

In 1989 brothers, Dennis and Dan Zongker started the company, Zongkers Custom Woods, Inc. still working out of their home. The following year, Dennis and Dan moved their business to a new location, the former Metz Brewery building. It is one of the oldest buildings in the state, having been established in the city of Omaha in 1856. Behind the walls of this building is one of Omaha's best-kept secrets, a custom furniture shop where old techniques are still in use. The brewery presents the shop and craftsmen in the old world traditions, which stands strong to both brothers.

Dan has studied art history; architecture and furniture design which has enabled him to work with customers, designing each piece in detail. Creating a true piece of art for each customer. Dan also is dedicated to designing company graphics, marketing campaigns, and website development, which has given Zongkers a leading edge. Community involvement is also very important, as he is involved in many different associations and local community projects.

Dennis's craftsmanship ability has blossomed over the 18 years of business. His eye for detail and his patience has been intertwined into the business and the shop. Developing his skills above and beyond, with years of research and development, has taken the company above the initial dreams both brothers shared. His carvings and marquetry talents has placed the finished products above cabinet shop status. His development of fine finishes and engineering details has proven to be the quality standards of the flourishing company.

In Dennis' spare time he likes to read history on furniture makers from the past. This gives him inspiration to keep trying harder. "When I read about other cabinet makers and how hard they have worked it makes me want to work harder," explains Dennis. "When I design and build a piece of furniture, my intension's are for the piece of furniture to last 100 years or more," said Dennis.

I have had the pleasure of working with Dennis and Dan, for the past three and half years, and producing a "Quality" product is their number one concern. This newsletter is dedicated to, Dennis, Dan and each of the craftsmen, and all their efforts and hard work to create such wonderful pieces of art.

I never knew what the difference was between custom-made furniture and the store shelf. The only thing I knew was I pick what I wanted, take it off the shelf and take it home. I look at furniture so differently now. I have come to know the beauty of what a custom hand made piece of furniture is. I see first hand all the hard work and time that goes into each and every project.

Dennis and Dan have such incredible talent and they pass it on to the craftsmen that are here at Zongkers. Each of them takes pride in each piece they custom build, which are truly pieces that can be passed down thru generations.

By, Patti Davis

## Production of Furniture

As well all know that “History repeats itself” in the same way we can say “Production of furniture” repeats and is known as reproduction. Antique furniture can be referred to the furniture which used to get manufactured many years ago may be which must have existed around 60-70 years ago. Today to get an antique furniture reproduced is like a pride because they are expensive to buy many a times we see this kind of furniture on roadside where seller sells them as second hand product. So, if one has a high budget than he or she can go for antique furniture, which is reproduction.

Reproduction of antique furniture is demand not only because of ethnic look what it carries but also because it has quality, which used to lack in early years. Also the material used today for reproduction antique furniture is much different which helps the body of furniture to resist against different climate conditions. Welcoming tradition back and many people are accepting it. The ethnic & gothic look of antique furniture is demand so is its production. But reproduction of antique furniture is not easy, as it requires lots of research, accuracy & skills, which very few craftsmen have.

### DID YOU KNOW?

For each second of operation during lift-off the space shuttle's engines consume enough fuel to power two million cars.

Today's average household in the USA contains more computer power than existed in the entire world before 1965.

The US Pilgrim Fathers would not eat lobster because they thought it was a giant insect.

TYPEWRITER is the longest word that can be made using only the letters on the top row of a computer keyboard.

When Coca Cola was first produced it was a green color

On average women blink nearly twice as much as men.

In the USA Americans eat about 18 acres of pizza a day!

On average there is about 3,000 feet of electrical wiring in every car.

## Grilled Potato Slices

### INGREDIENTS:

4 medium potatoes, cleaned and sliced (we prefer the skins on, but you may peel them also)\* 1 can cream of mushroom soup  
1 tsp of soy sauce  
1 tsp Worcestershire sauce  
salt & pepper to taste

### DIRECTIONS:

1. Unroll a sheet of aluminum foil about 12-14" long. Cut 4 pieces.
2. Place a single serving of sliced potatoes on each sheet of foil. Set aside.
3. In a small bowl, mix together cream of mushroom soup, soy sauce & Worcestershire sauce.
4. Place about 1/4 c. of the soup mixture over each of the potato slice piles.
5. Roll up the foil to enclose the potatoes inside of a "packet".
6. I take another 12-14" sheet of foil and re-wrap each packet, to help seal the packet more to prevent leakage.
7. Place each packet on the grill and grill for approx. 25-30 min, flipping every 8 min to evenly cook through

## New York strip steak with whiskey-mushroom sauce

### Ingredients

2 New York strip steaks, each 4 ounces, trimmed of all visible fat  
1 teaspoon trans-free margarine  
3 garlic cloves, chopped  
2 ounces sliced shiitake mushrooms  
2 ounces button mushrooms  
1/4 teaspoon thyme  
1/4 teaspoon rosemary  
1/4 cup whiskey

### Directions

Prepare a hot fire in a charcoal grill or heat a gas grill or broiler. Away from the heat source, lightly coat the grill rack or broiler pan with cooking spray. Position the cooking rack 4 to 6 inches from the heat source.

Grill or broil the steaks until slightly pink on the inside, about 10 minutes each side. Or until a food thermometer indicates 145 F (medium rare), 160 F (medium) or 170 F (well done). Transfer to a plate and keep warm.

In a small saucepan, heat the margarine over medium heat. Add the garlic, mushrooms, thyme and rosemary. Sauté lightly until the mushrooms are tender, about 1 to 2 minutes. Remove from the heat and carefully add the whiskey (be careful not to flame). Stir the sauce for another minute. Top the steaks with the mushrooms sauce and serve immediately.

*From: [mayoclinic.com/health/summer-recipes](http://mayoclinic.com/health/summer-recipes)*