

Second Life Does It Right

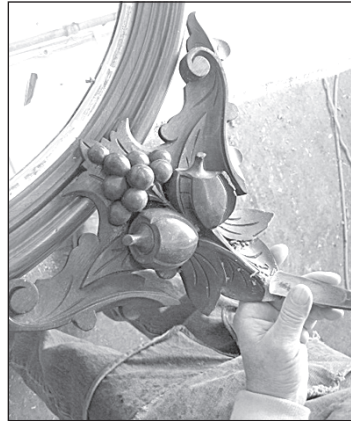
Second Life first opened its doors in 1993, as a small shop focused on repairs and refinishing of both traditional and contemporary furniture. Sixteen years later the craftsmen at Second Life, often teaming up with the clients whom they serve, are designing and creating some of the most beautiful furniture in the country.

Located in Charlestown, Second Life retains a neighborhood quality where local residents often stop by with a broken chair or other family piece that needs attention.

Designers and decorators have relied on their expertise, bringing in plans for a custom built headboard or bathroom vanity, knowing the treatment it receives will result in something extraordinary. They have accumulated a large portfolio of period antiques which they have restored to their original condition, while adding an upholstering department to complete many sets. Recent restoration projects include a large antique American Empire flame mahogany veneered wardrobe and a Pierpoint leather inlay round oak desk for the National Historic Geneological Society.

Last Spring Second Life was approached by the Campus Activities Complex at MIT and asked to modify the original oak and steel lectern designed by Eero Saarinen for Kresge auditorium. Their challenge was to retain the look which the famous designer intended while adapting the scale to accommodate a laptop computer. Streamlining the prototype, they retained the original angles while stretching the surface and lowering the height of the light box.

In the past month they have turned a beam of solid teak into a lovely



ebonized Victorian tray table, while last summer they got together with a familiar client to turn out a high gloss metallic lacquer prayer bench.

A customer recently asked to have a pair of bedroom dressers refinished which had been handed down by her mother to her when she was a young woman. At that time, just out on her own, she took one of these two mahogany art deco pieces and painted it yellow, then antiqued it in a French provincial style. The folks at Second Life carefully removed the paint and restored the pieces to their original look, with a deep mahogany stain and hand rubbed lacquer finish.

As the saying goes, no job is too big or too small. The team at Second Life loves to work at creating and restoring furniture, those "valued items which you would like to keep forever."

SECOND LIFE
50 Terminal Street,
Charlestown, MA
www.secondlife.net
(617) 242-0015