

The Spider Bed has been taking all (or perhaps most) of my attention. Photos below.

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Art Furnishings For Artful Living

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Working diligently on the Spider Bed February 15, 2017

Last letter I showed just the drawings for the Spider Bed. You may remember that I described the project as having begun with a family story about having watched a duck slurp up a big juicy spider from under a boathouse. Visiting the family at their summer home on Lake Winnepesaukee I discovered that the larger intent of the project was to commemorate their love of the property that has been in the family for generations. Here are some work in progress photos..

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The frame parts for the headboard

The bed frame is walnut, and the panels are cherry. Here you see the parts dry fit for the headboard, with the piece for the divider that separates the right panel from the left ready to be fit into place. Laying it out in this way allows me to plan for the joinery. The footboard is a similar arrangement. The posts and divider are carved treelike to reflect a theme in the drawings.



This is how I cut the tenon on the long frame parts.

These parts are really long. I have made a sled that rides on the fence of my table saw, and I clamped the frame part to it. I can keep it steady while vertical and slide it smoothly through the blade for a nice clean cut, then move the fence the exact amount for a second cut to make a perfectly fitting tenon.

Happily, I didn't break any of my florescents doing this.



Making sure the tenons and angles are perfect.

The cross pieces on the head and footboard meet the posts at angles that are slightly off square. To assure that the angles on the ends of the tenons match perfectly I scribed them from the posts in dry clamp up and used my marking gauge to make sure they are perfect.



The crest of the headboard

Here is a photo of the crest with the carved, Chagall inspired couple, floating above the scene. The background shapes reflect the shapes on the roof line of the house.



Transferring the drawings to the panels

Usually I use carbon paper to transfer my drawings to the panels, but this time, considering the complexity of the designs I decided to make copies and glue them directly to the panels.



Beginning to carve the birthday pane

Carving right through the paper I start out by outlining all the shapes with a V tool, then consider what tucks behind what, and carve accordingly. Andrew has spent all but two of our many birthdays at the property, thus this commemoration. The property has an incredible water tower on it, shown in the background.



Progress on the birthday panel

Here is the same panel further along in the carving, and some tools used. Right now I am working on bringing all four panels to this stage, perhaps a little further along. Then I will resharpen all my tools and go back and carve in the details. That way the last cut will be a nice lean cut.



That's it for now.

Abby and I are off on vacation. A day in Istanbul visiting a friend, and a week of skiing in Zermatt. I hope you enjoyed this peek into how it's done. When we get back I'll keep working and take more photos.

Best

Jeffrey

If you like this send me an email, especially if it makes you think of something you'd like me to make for you.

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