

A garden bench for a home in the White Mountains

Jeffrey Cooper

Art furnishings for artful living

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A garden bench for a home in the White Mountains, and a Memory Box for a one year old.

Below are photos showing my current project. You will find the design phase and the way I go about it interesting. First I want to tell you about upcoming opportunities to see me and my work.

- Right now through Sunday I am showing the **Black Bear Lamp at the League of NH Craftsmen Fair at Mt Sunapee in Newberry, NH**, upstairs at **Living with Crafts** exhibit. The lamp also has kingfisher and woodpecker carvings, and **happily it has sold**. More on the Crafts Fair [\[click here\]](#)
- You still have a chance to purchase my latest Giraffe Lamp through the **Gallery at Somes Sound, Mt Desert Island Maine**. They also have a kids set of giraffe chair, horse chair and table. Stop in there on your next Maine vacation. More about the Gallery [\[click here\]](#)
- The **NH Furniture Masters Maine Event** this year will open **September 19 at 3S Artspace** in Portsmouth, with a **Pecha Kucha style presentation from 5 to 7 PM**. In case you are unfamiliar, Pecha Kucha is a format where each presenter shows 20 slides, 20 seconds each; thus it is well paced and you get a lot of insights into the creative process of several of our members. For more info on 3S Artspace [\[click here\]](#)
- Our show will be up for two weeks, culminating with our annual **Open House and Silent Auction on Sunday, October 1, 1:00 to 4:30 PM**, followed by our **annual auction of perhaps 10 pieces, and a small plate supper** for more casual time with the Masters. For more info, or to get your tickets to the auction and dinner portion of the event [\[click here\]](#)
- During that show, on **Saturday, September 23** you will have an opportunity to purchase work created by those participating in our **Prison Outreach Program**, both in the Maine and New Hampshire prison programs. This program is by the American Furniture Masters Institute. For more info on AFMI [\[click here\]](#)

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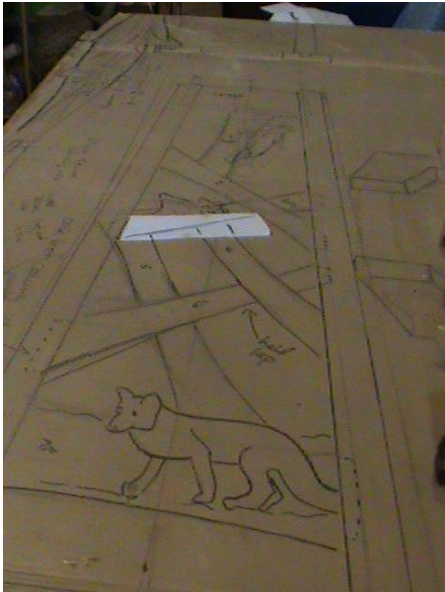
Garden bench Affinity 2

Several years ago I made a garden bench after visiting Barcelona and being inspired by the work on Antonio Gaudi. I called it Affinity, as in, showing an affinity for Gaudi's approach to design. My clients Bill and Leonie have a new home in the White Mountains, and have long admired my work. They wanted an outdoor piece for their new home as part of a landscape design for the approach to the house, and liked the Affinity bench. I suggested it be quite tall to make a real statement, they selected a stone from my collection, and decided on carvings of a pileated woodpecker, a flying squirrel and a fox because they see these animals from their new home. I didn't know flying squirrels were in our neck of the woods, but they are! At right is a photo of a small scale model I made to express my idea, and you can see the first Affinity bench on my website, [click here](#)

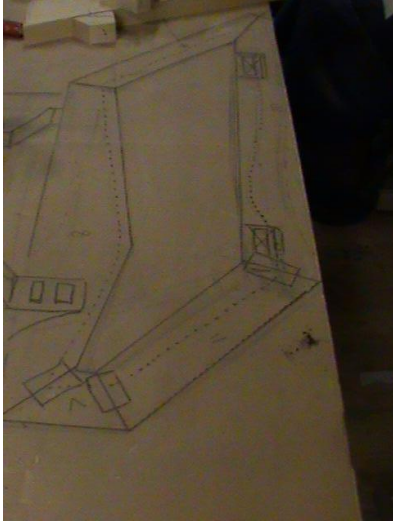


Full scale drawings

To start the project I prepare full scale drawings. Full scale is necessary because every piece that will make up the bench is an odd shape. This is the only way I can see what that shape should be. Then I make the pieces by laying the wood on top of the drawings. Below are two photos, one of the drawing and the other the drawing with the pieces laid out on top of it, some but not all of the joinery done.



Layout of the seat



These three photos show the layout of the seat. At left the full scale drawing, below the drawing with the wood parts laid out on it, below that a photo with the stone. Later the underside of the stone will be reworked to nestle into the center space, and the leg and brace arrangement will be finalized. You will notice the glue blocks that will later be used for clamping as shown. Joinery will be hidden splines.





Memory Box

A few years ago I made a pair of memory boxes for two young girls. Last month I made a third for the first birthday of their new cousin. It has her name and birthday inscribed, a larkspur for her birth month, July, and a hummingbird and bleeding hearts just because they like them. Here are the grandparents with Kellie Ann.

The box is 12 x 12 x 18 with a lift out tray inside, made from cherry with mitered corners and walnut splines.



That's it for now.

I'll keep you posted as the bench progresses and I do hope to see you at one of the Furniture Masters events. You can pick up a catalog while there. It's really nice this year.

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