

Jim Braverman Furniture



I have been building for as long as I can remember. My childhood friend, Randy, and I created a vast network of tree forts in the forest behind our homes. We were constantly expanding and improving and improvising on the structures which we would spend hours playing in. No surprise that he became a world class home builder. When my change of residence landed me in the middle of the ocean, surfboards became the next craft I ensued. Color, shape, design and function became the world around me. I lived in a world where the master craftsmen were revered, and I wanted to get there someday. One of the legends of the area lived just down the street from me creating the most beautiful sculpted furniture from the beautiful local woods. He had two houses on the beach, one he lived in and the other he converted into a woodshop, employing a few of the local surfers. Together they produced furniture, unmatched to this day, which they shipped all around the world. I had to be a part of it. One day, working up the courage to approach a local legend, I turned the corner of his yard, only to be met face to face by Alan himself. Right there I asked to go to work with him, and he just as abruptly replied "Give me two years of your life." There began an apprenticeship and friendship which continues to this day.

Marriage and family brought me back to the mainland where I began the journey of the designer/craftsman on my own. It was an exciting and passionate time where the strides in the craft were equally matched by the interest and support shown to this unique art community. Freedom of line, color, and expression was the language of the day. Likewise we were just as excited to see what the men and women of our trade were creating as what was happening with our own

progression. For me, every new commission was an opportunity to expand on my own vision. Every new client also became a collaborator in the process, and the work created and the friendships born are still weathering the test of time.

Commitment at this level, to such a journey, does not fade. Many of those of that time period, if still with us, are still sawdust deep in creating something of beauty. The patronage has changed, but not the burning desire to create lasting beauty, sustainable in the most real way. As for me, this is the work of my life. The constant pursuit of that simple and perfect line, the joyously tense collaboration with an unlikely client, the creation of an object of uncommon beauty.



Walnut contoured dual lidded cedar chest \$3600

Any time you can combine bringing both beauty and function into a piece of furniture, it's a win. I have always enjoyed the presence of a cedar chest in a room, but I had always thought enabling it to be used for seating would enhance the usage. The idea to split the top was created so one could access the contents without having to get up. The sculpted top both softens the piece and provides comfortable seating. The piece is built from hand-picked solid hardwood with only a natural finish so the color and patina can age naturally. Built to be enjoyed for generations!