

Furniture Studio

The Heart of the Functional Arts



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Robert Griffith, Hallstead, PA

Tripod Table 02 1997

Forged copper, optional glass top (not shown)
16"w × 16"d × 23"h

A series of tables illustrating the maker's involvement with vessels—now adapted to tables. A glass top makes the table more functional. These tables premiered as part of a touring exhibition that opened in Glasgow, Scotland, Oct. 1997.

Photo: Lisa Hinkle



Ross Day, Seattle, WA

Musician's Suite 1997

Figured cherry, East Indian rosewood,
bronze, maple

Cabinet: 26"w × 17"d × 40"h

Music stand: 20"w × 10"d × 40–60"h

An ensemble whose materials, lines, and design elements play off each other to "make music," with the goal of being aesthetically beautiful and ultimately functional. It was like building a very large jewelry box. Each cabinet drawer holds two banks of sheet music and has a removable divider if a larger drawer space is needed. The top of the case is designed to hold a removed drawer securely.

Photo: Mike Seidl



The understated elegance of this bedroom furniture by Ross Day creates a quiet sanctuary for the client.

Good Design, One Room at a Time

Personal sanctuaries can counteract outside chaos. One Seattle client uses her bedroom suite by Ross Day as just such a refuge of calm. Built of maple and French oak, the meticulous craftsmanship reveals itself in delicate proportions and gliding drawers. The furniture is a pleasure to see and to use. The client finds popular taste profoundly unset-

Desk and chair by Stewart Wurtz sit quietly in the bedroom — a private gem.



ling. She deplors our culture's strip-mall mentality, because she feels people react unhappily to an ugly environment. Consequently, she has made her home a retreat, a place to reenergize and settle, where things are not whirling out of control but are focused in excellence. Rather than try to conquer all of society with good design, some commission it one room at a time.

Private Eye

Collecting reflects a personal aesthetic that's often quite private. A philanthropist in Seattle, who has been commissioning furniture by Stewart Wurtz for the past ten years, identifies his first purchase as a museum-quality work of art. It's a desk of figured maple and ash that stands in the master bedroom, crowned by a vase of flowers. The household art collection includes paintings, sculpture, and photographs. When the owner gives tours, he finds that only a few visitors notice his furniture, leaving him to enjoy his connoisseurship in private.

Wurtz's designs converse with Wegner chairs and Biedermeier antiques. The client enjoys these allusions, giving Wurtz the freedom to interpret without restraint, "because Stewart has always exceeded my expectations. It's incredible when he brings over his things."