

CELEBRATING

40
YEARS

TAUNTON'S

Fine Woodworking

**Cutting-edge furniture
by young makers**

**How to sand
the right way**

**Gap-free dovetails
every time**

TOOL TEST

Jack planes

**Clever approach
to bandsawn boxes**

**Sharpen your
own handsaw**

PROJECT

**Iconic Shaker
cabinet gets
a face-lift**



Dec. 2015 No. 250

\$8.99 \$9.99 Canada



www.finewoodworking.com

Tree of Life by Jeremy Zietz, p. 72

Woodworkers on the Rise

From the 1970s through the 1990s, craft furniture flourished. The generation of woodworkers who learned from towering figures like James Krenov, Tage Frid, Jere Osgood, and Sam Maloof produced work of great diversity and distinction.

But for the past 10 years or so, assessments of the woodworking field have been relentlessly dire.

Studio furniture has been pronounced dead again and again. Like any other style, people said, it's had its day and now it's done. But a

funny thing happened on the way to the graveyard—all sorts of younger makers have emerged, producing exciting designs and practicing impeccable craftsmanship. From Texas to Toronto and Brooklyn to Bellingham, backyard shops and urban co-ops are bulging with great young woodworkers. With our 40th anniversary at hand, we've taken the opportunity to present a handful of these young makers. We could easily have filled the entire issue with such work, and in the coming months you'll be seeing articles by others from this impressive new generation.

Jeremy Zietz

Jeremy Zietz is just 31, but he already brings a rich education and experience to his furniture making. Right out of college,



where he studied industrial design, Zietz worked for five years in product design, helping develop medical devices, computer mice, sports equipment, and much else for international companies. The


work was fascinating, but Zietz wanted to design on a more intimate scale and to make the things he designed. He took a nine-month course at the Vermont Woodworking School, and afterward got a job as a designer and craftsman with ShackletonThomas, a company in Vermont that sells its furniture across the country.

At the same time, Zietz took part in an informal mentorship program with Garrett Hack. Every three or four weeks for nine months, Zietz and a handful of other aspiring furniture makers would spend a day in Hack's Vermont shop. For Zietz, it was an opportunity to absorb Hack's approach to light, strong case construction and intricate string inlay. He applied what he learned to his Tree of Life chest of drawers.

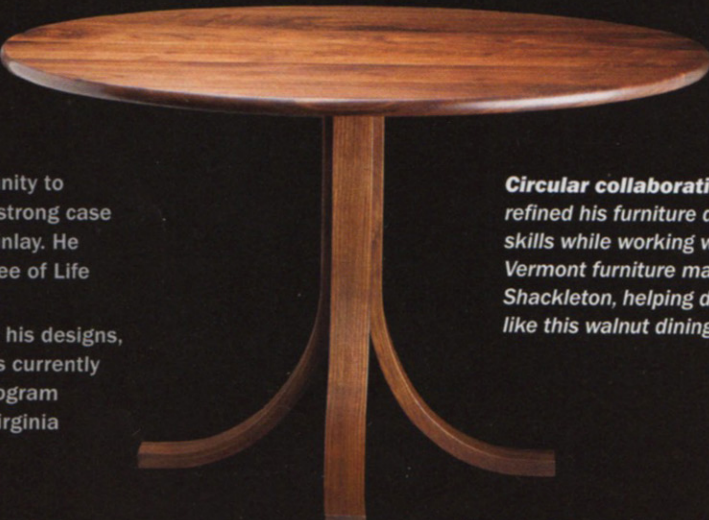
Despite the accomplishment of his designs, Zietz is not finished studying: He's currently midway in a two-year master's program in wood and furniture design at Virginia Commonwealth University.



Coopered cabinet. Blending technical challenges with artistic ones, Zietz built this collector's cabinet with coopered staves of quartersawn ash.



Chest of life. Growing up in Chester County, Pa., Zietz admired the exuberant painted designs on early Pennsylvania German furniture; he decided to translate that boldness into a Tree of Life design executed in maple string inlay on his walnut chest of drawers.



Circular collaboration. Zietz refined his furniture design skills while working with Vermont furniture maker Charles Shackleton, helping design pieces like this walnut dining table.