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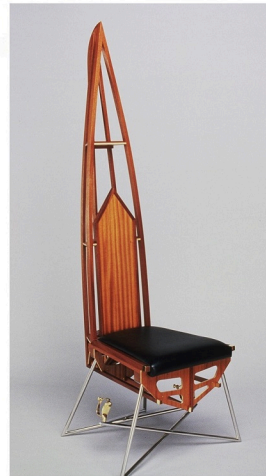


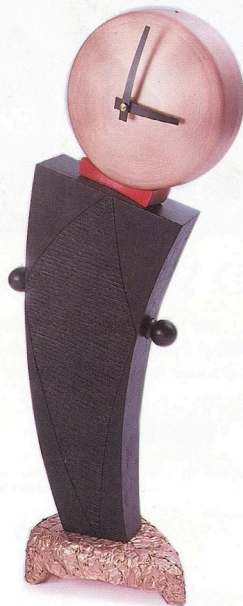
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Above: Dynasty Collection marble-top table, winner of the Pinnacle Design Award, a national design competition.

Above right: Mahogany "Olympic Effort" chair is based on Puksta's athletic experience in rowing shells.

Far right: New Country dining room set, manufactured by Saloom Furniture.

Right: The creation of the "Shall We" mantel clock was inspired by the memory and gestures of Fred Astaire. It is constructed of mahogany, copper and brass.



Both Sides Now

Woodworker Fred Puksta builds furniture for the worlds of both fine art and commercial design. He trained with renowned artist/sculptor Wendell Castle and upon graduation served as an artisan in Castle's studio. A member of the New Hampshire Furniture Masters organization, Puksta has fulfilled commissions for residential, commercial and public work. An eight-foot-tall sculptural clock at the Christa McAuliffe Planetarium in Concord was a public commission, but a very personal pro-

ject for him. He was moved by Christa's life and legacy, and was honored by the opportunity to create a piece in her honor.

Puksta spent many years as an amateur athlete attempting to make the U. S. National/Olympic rowing team, much of that time at Dartmouth College. His ode to rowing took shape in the "Olympic Effort" chair, which incorporates a bent mahogany frame and antique brass oarlocks to echo the framework of a rowing shell.

Currently, Puksta is designing in the commercial world for Saloom Furniture. The small size of the company allows him to work in all aspects of the design process, from concept to building prototypes to promotional marketing. He says he constantly challenges himself to bring something new from the art world into his commercial designs and, not surprisingly, several of his lines have received honorable mentions and awards at the furniture capital of America in High Point, North Carolina.

Puksta values his engagement within the different worlds of commercial and artisan craft. It's the cross-pollination that furthers his perspective on furniture design and its form and function. You can see his commercial designs at Settings in Nashua. **NH**

Left: This tall sculptural clock is on permanent display at the Christa McAuliffe Planetarium in Concord. Called "One Moment in Time," the clock was inspired by one of Puksta's elementary school teachers, just as Christa McAuliffe inspired her students.

