

Rustic Tomorrow

There is a modern movement in rustic architecture taking place across the country. Simply put, the architecture has gotten ahead of the furnishings. The intention of Rustic Tomorrow is to "jump-start" the craft of furniture building by pairing the leading architects and designers in contemporary design with the best of the Adirondack rustic artisans.

—Ann Stillman O'Leary

Participants

ARCHITECTS / DESIGNERS

David Childs
Dennis Wedlick
Michael Graves
Thomas Cardone
Allan Shope
Nils Luderowski

RUSTIC MAKERS

Wayne Ignatuk
Barney Bellinger
Jason Henderson
Russ Gleaves and Bill Coffey
Judd Weisberg
Jay Dawson

Rustic Tomorrow Exhibition Venues

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| May — October 2008 | ■ Adirondack Museum, Blue Mountain Lake, New York |
| November & December 2008 | ■ Lake Placid Center for the Arts, Lake Placid, New York |
| February — April 2009 | ■ Munson-Williams-Proctor Art Institute, Utica, New York |
| April 2009 | ■ D. Wigmore Fine Art, Inc. Gallery, New York, New York |

Project Fundraising Goal: \$50,000

—Donors will be publicly acknowledged in the exhibit for financial support of the project—

The six unique pieces that are *Rustic Tomorrow* will be auctioned in the spring, 2009. Proceeds to benefit the Adirondack Museum.

History is in our nature



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Adirondack Museum
Blue Mountain Lake, N.Y. 12812
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Adirondack Museum Launches *Rustic Tomorrow*

Blue Mountain Lake, N.Y. If a maker of Adirondack rustic collaborated with a contemporary world-class architect, what would the final product be? A blend of the past and the future, certainly. A fusion of the traditional and cutting-edge – perhaps.

The Adirondack Museum at Blue Mountain Lake, New York will introduce a very special exhibit this season called *Rustic Tomorrow*. Six modernist and post modernist architects or designers have been paired with prominent Adirondack rustic furniture makers. The results of these collaborations are one-of-a-kind pieces, distinctly futuristic in design, but constructed using traditional time-honored techniques.

The goal of the project is to demonstrate the relevance of Adirondack rustic traditions to contemporary life and design.

Rustic Tomorrow will be on exhibit at the Adirondack Museum from May 23 through October 19, 2008. The exhibition will travel to the Lake Placid Center for the Arts, Lake Placid, N.Y. for a November 7 through December 13, 2008 showing, and to the Munson-Williams-Proctor Art Institute in Utica, N.Y. from February 14 to April 19, 2009.

The six unique pieces that are *Rustic Tomorrow* will be displayed at D. Wigmore Fine Art, Inc. Gallery in New York City in April 2009. They will be sold at auction to benefit the Adirondack Museum.

Ann Stillman O’Leary, who founded her firm, Evergreen House Interiors, Inc, Lake Placid, N.Y. in 1989, originated the *Rustic Tomorrow* project. O’Leary has established a solid reputation in the field of interior design. Known for leading the renaissance in rustic architecture and interior design, she is sought after for her distinctive style that is both rustic and refined. O’Leary is the author of the best selling books *Adirondack Style* and *Rustic Revisited*. She has been featured on the Today Show, HGTV radio, Cabin Life, House and Garden Channel and in numerous national publications.

“This exhibit is perfect for the museum as we begin our 51st year - it is fresh, innovative, and yet stems from the history of a great Adirondack tradition - rustic furniture making. I am especially pleased with the overwhelming enthusiasm we have seen among the rustic makers and architects involved in the project. I am sure *Rustic Tomorrow* will garner even greater enthusiasm among visitors here and as it travels to Lake Placid, Utica, and New York, New York,” says Adirondack Museum Director, Caroline M. Welsh.

The Participant Partners

David M. Childs joined the firm of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill in 1971 after serving on the Pennsylvania Avenue Commission. Mr. Child's diverse range of design projects circle the globe. He is the designer for the World Trade Center Tower 1 at the World Trade Center site, and the new Pennsylvania Station at the historic Farley Post Office building in New York City. His more recently completed work includes the new 7 World Trade Center and the Time Warner Center at Columbus Circle. Childs is a Fellow, American Institute of Architects (FAIA). His work has been widely published.

Wayne Ignatuck, owner of Swallowtail Studios in Jay, N.Y., spent eighteen years as an engineer in the laser industry before his woodworking hobby became a career. His style has evolved from twig chairs and tables to more complex designs he describes as "organic arts and crafts." Ignatuck's work has been profiled on HGTV's "The Good Life," in the book *Adirondack Home*, in *Adirondack Life* magazine and other publications. He exhibits his work at the finest rustic shows in the country.

In 1998 *The New York Times* declared Dennis Wedlick a "rising star in architecture." The "rise" has continued as Wedlick's work has garnered awareness and accolades in both the media and architecture community. He began his career working with world-renowned architect Philip Johnson. His own firm, Dennis Wedlick Architect, LLC has become synonymous with quality, craft, and the best in contemporary picturesque design. He was recently named to *Architecture Digest's* AD 100 – showcasing the top international designers and architects.

Rustic furniture artist Barney Bellinger is the owner of Sampson Bog Studio, Mayfield, N.Y. It is an art studio where bark, twigs and natural materials are gathered into the hands of a craftsman inspired by the logging trails, wildlife refuges, fly fishing sites, and the Great Camps of the Adirondacks. Furniture created by Barney Bellinger has been exhibited at the National Museum of Wildlife Art, the Adirondack Museum, and the Ralph Kylloe Gallery, and appears in the permanent collections of the Orvis Company and the Smithsonian Institution.

Michael Graves has been at the forefront of architecture and design since he founded his firm in 1964. Michael Graves and Associates – the architecture and interior design practices, and Michael Graves Design Group – the product and graphic design group, have received more than 185 awards for design excellence. Design projects range from urban architecture to consumer products. Graves himself received the American Institute of Architect's Gold Medal, the highest award bestowed on an individual as well as twelve honorary doctorates. He is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

The work of Furniture Artist Jason Henderson stands out for its ability to push the tradition of Adirondack style furniture into new and interesting design areas. His interpretation of rusticity is closely aligned with studio furniture and contemporary

furniture design. His work has an “edge” and has earned a bit of notoriety. “Dining Chair” (2003) received the Most Original Design award at the Adirondack Museum’s Annual Rustic Fair and was purchased by the museum for the permanent collection. He was profiled by *Adirondack Life* magazine in 2006 in an article aptly called “Mr. Henderson Presents.” Henderson lives and works in the Lake George, N.Y. area.

Thomas Cardone has had a long career as an Art Director in the film industry. He spent thirteen years with The Walt Disney Company in Burbank, California before joining 20th Century Fox’ New York-based Blue Sky Studios in 2002. His most recent project has been art direction for “Dr. Seuss’s Horton Hears a Who!” which premiered in the spring of 2008. Among Cardone’s many film credits are “Ice Age: The Melt Down;” “Robots;” “Chicken Little;” “The Emperor’s New Groove;” and “Pocahontas.”

Russ Gleaves love of nature began when he moved to a log cabin in the Adirondacks as a young child. Raised in Queens, N.Y. Bill Coffey has created custom furniture with many of New York City’s finest craftsmen. His love for the Adirondacks – nurtured as a child on vacation – led him to Northville, N.Y. in 1999. There he met Russ, and the pair has been creating one-of-a-kind innovative rustic furniture ever since. The duo takes pride in crafting pieces that will be passed down through many generations. Customers in Wyoming, Wisconsin, New York City, and Japan have commissioned their work.

Allan Shope has been an architect and furniture maker for thirty years. He founded the distinguished architectural firm of Shope, Reno, Wharton Associates in 1981. Shope’s abiding interest in the use of sustainable building materials, land use, and alternative non-fossil energy sources led to him to found Listening Rock Farm and Environmental Center in Armenia, N.Y. The focus is on man’s problematic relationship with the earth around him. “Carbon neutral” is the *minimum* standard for the Center.

Judd Weisberg has his home and studio in Lexington, Greene County, New York in the Catskills surrounded by rivers, lakes, and streams, which inform his life and work as an artist, designer, teacher, and environmentalist. He creates furniture environments for the home, business, and for sets and properties for performing arts applications. Finishes are non-toxic and are expressive of the burnished or matte looks found in nature. His work is in private collections and homes nationwide

Nils Luderowski is an architect whose practice is about residential architecture and design in an Adirondack vernacular. His studio offers traditional architectural services including site planning, interior design, furniture design, and custom artisan work. Luderowski pioneered the “New Adirondack Style” of architecture, an authentic blend of Shingle, Craftsman, Prairie and regional expressions, incorporating modern living requirements and current technology. In the mid 1990s he settled in Keene, N.Y. in the High Peaks Region of the Adirondack Mountains.

Creating unique and functional art has been Jay Dawson’s passion since he began designing pieces over 20 years ago. A self-taught craftsman, he has worked with wood in some form for most of his life. He is well known for both furniture and stairways and has developed a reputation for custom creations. He works with clients, architects, and interior designers to ensure that each piece meets expectations for beauty, quality and

functionality. Dawson's work has appeared in many publications including *Smithsonian Magazine*, *Log Home Living*, and the book *Rustic Furniture* by Daniel Mack. He created archways for Woodstock 1999, the 2000 Goodwill Games, and the 2000 Empire State Games.

The Adirondack Museum has the finest collection of historic Adirondack rustic furniture and furnishings, *not* in private hands, in the country. The museum hosts an annual Rustic Fair in the fall. The fair attracts more than sixty highly skilled rustic craftsmen from all parts of the United States and Canada, and is the largest rustic show in the eastern part of the country. The 21st Annual Rustic Fair is planned for September 5, 6, and 7, 2008.

The Adirondack Museum is a regional museum of art, history and material culture. It is nationally known for extensive collections, exhibits, and research library that together reflect stories of life, work, and play in the Adirondack Park and northern New York State. The museum celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2007. To learn about all the Adirondack Museum has to offer, please visit www.adirondackmuseum.org

The Adirondack Museum tells the story of the Adirondacks through exhibits, special events, classes for schools, and hands-on activities for visitors of all ages. The museum will open for a new season on May 23, 2008, introducing a new exhibit *Rustic Tomorrow*. For information about upcoming exhibits and programs, please call (518) 352-7311, or visit www.adirondackmuseum.org.