

people

Wood offers an opportunity to showcase the raw beauty of nature in furniture design. These skilled craftspeople harness the seemingly rough edges, natural symmetries, asymmetries, grains, textures and colours to craft rich character that cannot be mimicked by man-made materials.

IN THE RAW

PHOTOGRAPHY
STEVE SMALL



BEN PATEY, MICHELLE PATEY, BRANI WHITE & DARRIN PATEY

Stone Ridge Woodcraft

What is a live edge? A live edge is the natural edge of the wood from the tree. Usually this edge gets cut off so the boards are squared up. We intentionally leave this edge in key places to provide a natural, yet finished feel to our pieces.

What is your artistic inspiration? Our main inspiration is the raw, natural beauty of the wood and we also draw on George Nakashima's work. The wood itself truly is the art. A background in industrial design and architecture comes in handy, too.

What is Stone Ridge Woodcraft all about? Combining materials such as wood, glass, metal and stone, we build heirloom-quality furniture. Drawing on inspiration from nature, we build every piece to be a conversation piece in your home.

JUDY STOEDTER

Country Charm Mennonite Furniture

Why is the live edge popular? It brings nature into the home and has a nice organic feel, allowing our surroundings and natural environment to come inside.

Where can you use a live edge? We can apply a live edge, with or without the bark, to almost any product, as long as the builder can do it. We've done live edges for desks, bookcases, dining tables, buffets, vanities, bedroom sets and kitchen countertops.

What kind of décor does a live edge work with? It can go with anything, any style, from modern to rustic. Even a budget-minded shopper can acquire a piece of wood furniture with a live edge. *Continued on page 52*



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GINA BIEMAN, LANI LORENZ & SUSAN BEALES

Smitty's Fine Furniture

What are "foundry cart" or "factory cart" tables? They are coffee tables made from refurbished or reproduction antique carts used to transport goods from one assembly to another in North America's historic factories.

The resurgence of vintage: Many people prefer a more eclectic look in their home furnishings today. It's no longer necessary to have a perfectly matched set as up-cycling and the use of warm woods and distressed and weathered finishes have become more popular.

What kind of décor would a foundry cart table work best with? These tables would look great in an industrial loft with a leather sofa, or in front of a large stone fireplace in a historical home. My favourite placement would be a storage-style cart in a casual family room with leather or fabric seating. It's distressed so any new marks or bumps blend right in.



KATHY CAMERON

Kountry Kat Mennonite Furniture

What's to love about islands and hutches?

They are the finishing touch to complete your kitchen with the added benefit of additional work surfaces and storage. You can also take them with you when you move.

Why do you love wood? There is a warmth and timelessness to wood; our pieces are made to last generations. Wood can be finished and refinished for endless variation to the overall look of the piece.

Why buy a handmade piece of furniture?

Solid wood furniture can be completely customized for you. You design it and enjoy a piece that is uniquely yours and fits your space.



PHIL MARTENS

Topnotch

Why do you enjoy working with a live edge?

Live edge furniture is very unique, as no two pieces are alike. Each piece of wood is very carefully selected for its individual character and for where it will be placed on the piece of furniture.

What is the process? Each piece of wood we select is milled, and then kiln dried before being crafted into a one-of-a-kind item.

How does the character of wood lend itself to furniture? Because every plank of wood is unique, our live edge pieces are strong focal points that draw the eye. Wood also easily shows the skill of the hand crafter and his or her eye for design. **OH**



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