

The Bulletin Board

Meetings (Saturdays, 3:00pm, in the Hui Children's Art Building, 2841 Baldwin Ave.):

March 1 – Part 1, "Getting the Job" of a series entitled "The Business of Woodworking" at the Hui.

April 19 – Hands on sharpening clinic. Bring your dull knives, chisels, gouges or ? and learn to give them an edge you can shave with!

Mahalo and welcome to the following new or renewing members:

Peter Boder	Walt Elf
Wayne Farmer	Gerald Filipelli
Shaun Fleming	Mats Fogelvik
Dave Graham	Carl Haupt
Dennis Holzer	John Hoxie
Stephan Hynson	Peter Naramore
Curtis Paddock	Chris Puibaraud
Al Rabold	Kala Raymond
Sam Stephens	Ron Tshako
Bruce Turnbull	John Wittenburg
Ricardo Vasquez	



Mats' New Shop Concept

A Woodworker's Dilemma: The Need for a New Shop

Mats Fogelvik

Many moons ago when I grew up in Sweden, our family spent the summers in a farm house on the countryside. In an out-building there was an old woodworking shop with ancient workbenches, hand planes, augers, chisels and old saws. It was used for making all the utilitarian items and furniture needed on a farm. Most every farm had a small shop like this. This was in the sixties and the shop was already almost abandoned, (industrialization) for my free disposal to tinker about with small projects. During the school year we had the mandatory Wood sloyd* classes, with a large well equipped shop at my school. My dad was self employed, with his workshop in the garage in our back yard. My childhood was blessed with the presence of a workshop around every corner.

Later, when I moved to Stockholm and decided to pursue a career in woodworking, I attended a furniture making school for a year, with an excellent workshop and a large machine room. We could use the shop in the evenings if needed. When I got a job as a woodshop teacher for grade school kids, again, there was a nice shop to my disposal, I could use it for personal project off-hours.

During the late eighties I worked as a

finish carpenter/building contractor in Stockholm. Every house I built was my workshop, until I was done and had to move on....

I arrived on Maui July 4, 1991, and it didn't take long until I got bored with/could not afford to be a tourist any longer. There is always work for a good carpenter, and soon I was working again, framing, finish carpentry, etc. Quite often my client liked my work building their houses, and they needed furniture too. "I can do that", I said and set up shop in their car-port and built some custom furniture.

In 1996 I came to a turning point; I made a decision and a commitment to build furniture full-time, and started my current business, Fogelvik Furniture. I needed a shop! My first shop was a space under the lanai on the house I am renting, all of 8'x20', the ceiling was low and the roof was leaking, not ideal. For a while I was using another woodworkers shop part-time in trade for work, but that didn't work out well. When my daughters moved here I needed to convert my home shop space to a room for them, and then I really needed a shop.. At the age of 36 I was for the first time in my life faced with the fact that I had to PAY RENT for shop space! Shortly after I was invited to join the now dissolved

Woodworking Techniques:

Veneering Using Capillary Action

Ricardo Vasquez

Generally clamps or vacuum bags are used to hold veneers to substrates while the adhesive dries but occasionally situations are encountered where neither can be used. I have obtained successful results using capillary action, which is the ability of a substance to draw another substance into itself.

In this type of situation the veneer would be drawn to the epoxy coated substrate thru capillary action.

My technique is to apply both a standard mixture of epoxy and epoxy that has been thickened with West System Colloidal Silica Adhesive Filler to the substrate. I first mix two batches of epoxy according to package instruction and add the Colloidal Silica Filler in small amounts to one batch of epoxy mixing well between additions of

Veneering pg 4

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King Koa

Peter Naramore

When was the first time you saw koa wood? Whether native or malihini I'll bet it wasn't long afterwards that it began to have its seductive effect upon you. If you're a woodworker, forgetaboutit, you're a goner. To know koa is to love koa. But how well do you know this favorite wood of kings and commoners alike?

The second most common native tree in Hawaii (after 'ohia lehua), acacia koa likely arrived in Hawaii millions of years ago via bird, wind or the sea from either Australia or Madagascar, where the most similar type of acacia trees are still to be found. Scientific proof of its long residency in Hawaii is in the more than 50 species of endemic bugs that are known to inhabit koa trees. By contrast, coconut palms which were introduced 1600 years ago harbor no endemic species of bugs.

In Hawaii's pristine environment, koa spread easily and developed its unique qualities. Within the Hawaiian culture prior to western contact, koa wood was extremely important. Logs suitable for single and double hulled seagoing canoes came from deep within the forests of Maui and Hawaii Island. A canoe log for these purposes needed to be in excess of forty feet in length, straight, and nearly 4 feet thick! Interestingly, the largest Hawaiian canoes ever built came from Koa trees harvested within

Maui's Kipahulu Valley. Among many other things, Hawaiians used Koa for making surfboards, paddles, spears and of course firewood. The bark contains tannin used as dye in kapa cloth production. To the Hawaiian people, koa symbolizes strength and power. In the Hawaiian language, koa also means warrior.

Shortly after Western contact the more serious harvesting of Hawaii's Koa forests began. On Maui above the 2000 foot elevation in Haiku and Makawao there was a vast and beautiful koa forest of well over 15,000 acres that was harvested to extinction between 1860 and 1900. Koa, being highly adapted to Hawaii's micro climates, can grow at elevations between 300 and 7500 feet. It can reach a height of well over 100 feet and live over 400 years. It can easily regenerate after fire, drought and flood. What it cannot survive is cattle. Unfortunately ranch land is precisely what replaced those koa forests and cows love to eat young koa saplings. Today on Maui, koa survives only in small pockets protected either by geography or fences from cows and its other natural predator, man. Fortunately for Hawaii's ecosystem, today's woodworkers and every fan of koa, the Big Island's koa forests were much larger than Maui's. Their tattered remnants have barely made it into the 21st century. Bishop estate lands contain the largest remaining stands

of koa and harvesting there has been severely curtailed. Reforestation efforts began on State and private land in Hawaii with modest success as early as the 1920s. Today those efforts continue with greater urgency as koa wood's value continues to skyrocket.

The Koa tree is a beautiful thing to behold. Home to the 'Iwi, red 'apapane, yellow 'amakihi, and 'elepaio as well as countless extinct endemic species of birds and insects, it is intrinsically keyed into the wildlife habitat of Hawaii and therefore difficult to propagate in a tree farm atmosphere. Success has come slowly with greater knowledge and understanding. It can thrive as a backyard tree and in small controlled plantings but is now subject to a microbial attack resulting in koa wilt which especially affects young trees at elevations below 2000 feet.

As woodworkers and lovers of koa, it is our responsibility to help this important and unique tree survive and thrive for future generations of all forms of life. Educate through words and by building beautiful things from koa wood. Plant koa trees both as backyard ornamentals and as part of reforestation projects (see more information below).

"E Ola Koa!" (Live like a koa tree)

Further Reading:

"Traditional Trees of Pacific Islands, Their culture, environment and use"
Edited by Craig Elevitch.

"Hawaiian Furniture and Hawaiian Cabinetmakers" Irving Jenkins

Volunteer to help plant trees:

Maui County Arborist Committee of Land and Natural Resources Division of Forestry and Wildlife. Contact Sue Kiang at 270-7329



Sliced Curly Koa Log

Photo: B. Potter

Shop

Woodworker’s Coop, just starting up in JB’s old shop in Haiku Town Center. My share would be \$250/month, utilities included. I didn’t have any work at the time, and said “I don’t know, I have to think about it”. I told my wife, and she so wisely said, “What, are you nuts?, call back right away and say yes!”, which I did.

I stayed with the Coop for three years, we were six guys sharing the overhead, and rarely we were more than three there at one time. It worked pretty well, and it was a time of great creativity and some chaos. This was also the first time I bought a stationary woodworking machine, an 8” jointer; I only had portables up to this point. Later we started to grow apart, and I felt the need for my own shop. The bay next door opened up, all of 880sqft, and I jumped on it. The first year I shared the shop with Robert Lippo, and it was a good transition time for getting in gear, and getting used to pay \$528/month myself. This was seven years ago now, when the base rent was \$0.45/sqft and old Mr. Shishido did run the building. I am still in the same spot, but it has changed a lot, ownership, remodels and rent. Now I pay about \$1,500/month for the same space.

Where I am going with this, is not to just complain, more to discuss a woodworker’s need for affordable workshop space. I remember it clearly a few years back, when my rent almost doubled overnight; it took all the fun out of woodworking. I consider myself a creative and artistic woodworker, but when so much effort goes into paying the bills and just break even, it can hamper creativity a lot.

Maybe not productivity, but that is different from creativity. This is a dilemma that might be very specific to our location, where living costs are high. As a woodworker, with all the machines and wood I have collected over the years, I need a large space to be able to work.

I really wanted to own my own shop, how could I do that? And I want to own my own house too; this would require a couple of acres of land. You all know how much land costs on Maui, which is why we started looking at Big Island. Four years ago. Land was very affordable in the Ka’u district and we bought 3 acres. The plan is to build our shop and home on the same land.

How big shop would I need? Well currently I have 880sqft, and a loft I built, about 400sqft, totaling 1280sqft. I am pretty crammed now, often in the way of myself or my project; it would be nice to be able to spread out a little... I decided to go for a 40’x60’ pre-fabricated steel building, 2,400 sqft. How to pay for it? Well it seems like it will cost me about \$80,000 to have the building finished and wired, but considering I am paying close to \$17,000 per year in rent for a shop less than half that size now, it doesn’t sound that bad! With some creative financing we will pull it off.

It is sad that we as a community are losing affordable warehouse/ shop space to rent. My landlords are converting Haiku Town Center, the old rust bucket, to fancy retail space, and they want \$2/sqft and up. That is why I lost my lease and had to start planning for something else. All the other woodworkers in the building are also gone or leaving soon.

I really look forward to having my own

shop and no landlord. It is always interesting to hear how woodworkers solve their shop needs. This is my story, and it is not over yet. The current schedule is that the steel building will be erected in March, and then it needs to be wired before I can move over. I will keep you posted of my progress...

**Meanwhile, happy shavings!
Aloha, Mats Fogelvik**

Attached is a picture of my slab/land with another picture of my shop model superimposed, to give you an idea of the finished look.

*sloyd - a system of woodworking education started by Uno Cygnaeus in Finland in 1865.

A Little Kokua

Al Rabold

Well, this is the second edition of MWG Shavings and I hope you all are enjoying it and finding the technique articles helpful. I know I am and I’m getting a lot of enjoyment being your editor and publisher.

The operative word in that last line is “...your...”. To date, your Board representatives have been writing the articles you and I are happily reading. I’m sure we all appreciate their efforts but sooner or later they’re going to run out of ideas or time.

That’s where the “you” in “your” becomes important. If you want the Shavings to continue, you’re going to have to contribute. I know, you don’t think you’re a good writer, but you really don’t have to be. All you really need is to have something to say. I promise that myself and the other board

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MWG Membership Application/Renewal

NAME: _____

BUS. NAME: _____

ADDRESS 1: _____

ADDRESS 2: _____

CITY, ST & ZIP: _____

HOME PH: _____ BUS. PH: _____

CELL PH: _____ EMAIL: _____

WEB SITE: _____

May we publish? Yes No

Address:
Home Ph:
Bus. Ph:
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Please Remit:

Dues (Annual \$50.00): _____

TOTAL (Chk No _____): _____

Membership in the Maui Woodworker’s Guild includes participation in all activities, show entires at member rates, bi-monthly meetings and newsletters and a one page display about you and your work on the MWG Website (mauiguild.com). Participation in Guild activities is expected of all members. Membership runs from February to February and is \$50.00 per year. Please include your check for the appropriate amount with this application. Mail to:

Maui Woodworker’s Guild, P.O. Box 96768, Makawao, HI 96768.

Veneering

the filler until the mixture has the consistency of peanut butter – smooth not crunchy. A small stick should stand up if placed in the thickened mixture without falling over.

I apply a thin coat of the regular epoxy batch to the clean substrate then trowel on the thickened mixture with a 1/16" spacing trowel. It should be very even. Position the veneer onto the substrate and starting in the center use a squeegee to press the veneer to the substrate. Work from the center out, applying even pressure so you do not create any lumps. Allow the epoxy to dry and then continue working your project.

I have used this technique when applying veneer to an existing staircase stringer

and when re-veneering a damaged wall panel where I could not add any thickness due to existing molding.

Good shop safety procedures require using gloves and a good respirator. The Collidal Silica thickener is extremely hazardous to lungs; keep container tightly closed and avoiding getting product airborne.

Kokua

Members will be pleased to give you all the support you need to write an article you'll be proud to publish. So, what to write?

How about a simple letter to the editor? You can submit suggestions for or critiques of both the Guild, the newsletter or an arti-

cle therein. You write 'em! I'll publish 'em!

What would be really great is if you would try an article. As I said, we'll help. You can write about anything, yourself, your work, a show, a technique - anything you think might interest the members. Length is not important but it would help if it was written in one of the common word processors, but don't even worry about that. I can always scan and OCR it.

You can submit your writing or ask for assistance by phone (I'm in the book) or via email at "editor@mauiguild.com".

I, along with you fellow members, look forward to reading your article. Who knows! Maybe you'll be the next Hemmingway!

MWG *Swap Meet*

MWG Swap Meet is a free service to Maui Woodworker's Guild members in good standing. Ads should be limited to 25 words or less. Multiple ads are acceptable. No personal information other than your telephone number will be included in your ad unless specifically requested. Please submit your ads with your full name, telephone number and email address to.

Editor@MauiGuild.Com

Or

MWG Shavings Editor
P. O. Box 305
Makawao, HI 96768

Sale: Aromatic Camphor, \$7.00 a b/f, air dried, 5/4, 6/4, 8/4, 4 to 10 ft lg, chests, drawers, case work etc. 572-3471

Sale: Craftsman 16" Dovetail / Box-joint System Makes through and half blind dovetails and 1/4" or 1/2" box-joints, good condition, \$80, 268-1117

Wanted: Small to Medium Wood Lathe in good condition, Vit, 573-6590

Wanted: Hollow Chisel Mortiser, Kala, 268-1117

Sale: Ford Ranger XLT, '02, 56K, 5Sp, PS, PB, A/C, CD, tonneau, recent tires, 20-21mpg, \$7500/bo, Al, 878-8525

Website: WWW.MauiGuild.Com

Maui Woodworker's Guild
P.O. Box 305
Makawao, HI 96768

