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The End Of Cheap Lumber

To the Editor:

Here are some observations from the "Heart of the Redwoods:

It's hard to change from the "Old Days" when the forest was so vast and went on forever. Back then, our job was to try our best to meet the demand for lumber with equipped sawmills that were horribly slow and took sheer brute force to get any production at all. The lumbermen had to cut or die attending to a job that was bred into him, generation after generation.

There were two major changes in the past 25 years that have brought our industry to the precipice we now stand on. First is technology. It's not as if it's the machines that are all-powerful and have such output that suddenly the destruction of the forest is possible.

The second change is the people in charge of the large timber conglomerates. Most aren't lumbermen anymore; they're businessmen interested in short-term profits.

We've got to view the forest not merely as a stand of trees but a total environment. We've got to have the courage to say: "Now look here, you folks that want wood, there's just so much cutting that we're going to be doing this year. And we can't send any more logs, burls, or anything else to Japan unprocessed. We've got our own mills and men to look out for."

We can't clear-cut just because our industry and the Forest Service say it's a better way to log; it's merely a cheaper way to log. I feel selective logging can be done easily. I've done it, and I've even logged selectively with High-Leg. It just takes more set-ups. Of course, it's going to mean that the lumber is going to cost more to accommodate these changes, but this is what has to happen.

Builders who are expecting cheap lumber in ever-increasing abundance are in for a rude shock .especially with respect to first-growth redwood. There are initiatives on the ballot in California this year that, if passed, will significantly reduce logging of virgin timber in our state. Similar initiatives are likely in Oregon and Washington.

Managing our forests for long-term sustainable logging is going to mean scarcer, more expensive lumber. But if there are to be forests for our grandchildren, we have no choice.

—Eric Hollenbeck

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JULY/AUGUST 1990

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"Keeping It Clean" (Order No. 024-005-01035-1) can be obtained for $2.50 from Dept. Of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. — CI
Architecture In Their Genes

In 1931, Nicholas Holmes, Sr., hung out his shingle in Mobile. Fifty-nine years later, the firm of N. H. Holmes, Architect, is still running — with son Nicholas, Jr., and grandson Nicholas, III, at the helm. Under their stewardship, it has become one of the South's premier preservation firms — while also setting a HABS record.

BY CLEM LABINE

If you walk into the offices of N. H. Holmes, Architect, in Mobile, Ala., and ask for "Nick Holmes," you’re likely to get a puzzled stare. That’s because the receptionist isn’t sure whether you’re referring to Nicholas Holmes, Sr., the founder of the firm, or Nicholas Holmes, Jr., or Nicholas Holmes, III.

Nicholas, Jr., and Nicholas, III, son and grandson of the founder, are in charge of the firm today. When asked how people solve the nomenclature problem with so many Nicks involved, Nicholas, Jr., says with a chuckle: "People often refer to us as Nick One, Nick Two, and Nick Three."

Nicholas Two and Three both have the quiet, soft-spoken tones that you might expect from gentlemen schooled in Southern etiquette. Though their manner is quiet, their words are strong for them. Among the current projects of N. H. Holmes, Architect, is the highest-visibility job in the state of Alabama: The $25-million restoration of the State Capitol in Montgomery. In addition, they are co-managing a design competition for a proposed Mobile County/City Building, as well as designing a dozen smaller projects.

Although the firm has a gilt-edged reputation in architectural preservation, it isn’t the company’s bread-and-butter. There simply isn’t enough preservation work to keep a firm busy on historical projects alone. In fact, over the years only about 30% of the billings of N. H. Holmes, Architect, have been generated from preservation and restoration jobs.

The Old Influences The New

With roughly 70% of their revenue coming from work on new schools, banks, offices, and industrial facilities, the firm’s designers can certainly be labeled "contemporary architects." But their work on historic buildings has had a clear influence on their new designs.

"We have a feeling for architectural embellishment," says Nicholas Two, "and that gives our new work a softer, less harsh look than much modern design. We like to think that our new buildings look at home and comfortable in their environment."

Nicholas Three elaborates: "Having a historical perspective makes us suspicious of design fads. We’re not trying to put up trendy 'datable' buildings: we strive for a more classic, timeless appeal. For example, by conscious choice we have never designed a building that could be labeled Post-Modern."

Aesthetics aside, there is also a very practical benefit that comes from combining preservation work with a contemporary practice. "When you work with a lot of old buildings," observes Nicholas Three, "you see some very dramatic examples of what works over time and what doesn't. You see types of joints that fail, and the way materials age. I feel our new buildings are based on sound knowledge of practical functioning — not flights of fancy."

The firm’s reputation as top restoration architects has had another unexpected consequence: N. H. Holmes, Architect, is the firm most people in southern Alabama think of when there are emergency repairs to be made. One notable example was when Hurricane Frederic struck coastal Alabama with devastating force in September 1979. The firm was requested to manage the hurricane damage repair to all the public schools in Mobile County. A team of architects under Nicholas Holmes, Jr., prepared bid documents and supervised about $10 million of repair work.

A Long Corporate Memory

Management consultants define "corporate memory" as the ability of people in an organization to retain information about policies and projects from the organization’s earliest years. The inter-generational connections of N. H. Holmes, Architect, give it an unusually long "corporate memory."

One case history shows how this "corporate memory" can come into play: After Hurricane Frederic, the firm was selected to perform architectural work for the repair of Mobile City Hall. The first priority, of course, was to secure the building with temporary walls, roofs, and window closures. Nicholas Two recalled that the building had been documented by HABS in the 1930’s, and so they quickly obtained copies of the drawings. "It was rather spooky," he says. "Son Nicholas the third and I hard at work using HABS drawings made in 1935 by N. H. Holmes, my father." Those old HABS drawings saved the architects a great deal of time and helped avoid further rain damage.

Setting A HABS Record

Besides heavy involvement with preservation activities on both the state and national level (both, for example, are active in the AIA’s Committee on Historic Resources), the family Holmes has achieved a unique distinction: They are the only set of grandfather-father-son architects to have delineated drawings for the Historic American Buildings Survey.

There is a note of gratitude in Nicholas Jr.’s voice when he speaks of the role that HABS has played — both in helping preserve Alabama’s architectural heritage, and in helping his father’s firm survive. "The depression hit hard in Alabama. My father’s architectural practice netted $1,225; in 1931 — and then things really got bad! In 1934, the Historical American Buildings Survey was started as a Federal program to get unemployed architects back to work. Under this program, during the mid-1930’s my father was busy scurrying through all

continued on page 18
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New Book:

**THE GOLDEN AGE OF ARCHITECTURAL IRON**

A just-published book on wrought and cast iron casts a brilliant new light on a time when ornamental iron was an honored citizen of the world of architecture.

With the decline of ornamentism in the 20th century, the art of producing architectural iron was all but lost. As the author, Diana Waite, points out in her introduction, "Sadly, the extent of what remains reflects as well on the extent of what has been lost." And it is not only the loss of actual pieces Ms. Waite refers to, but also to the loss of technology. Some cast iron objects that were produced routinely in the late 19th century can only be reproduced today at extraordinary expense—if at all. Ms. Waite shows us both the ways that wrought and cast iron were manufactured and how they were used architecturally. There's also a very useful chapter on how to preserve and restore ironwork, written by John G. Waite. The book is lavishly illustrated, both with photos of surviving ornamental iron and with pages from period ironwork catalogs. Most of the photos and manufacturing histories are taken from the Albany-Troy, N.Y., area...but the examples are typical of ironwork throughout much of the U.S. Students of architectural iron will want this volume, of course. But with today's reviving interest in ornamental iron, this book is also a valuable design resource for anyone working in restoration or traditionally styled new construction.

"Ornamental Ironwork" is 142 pages, softbound. It can be ordered for $22.45 (ppd.) from Mount Ida Press, 4 Central Ave., Dept. TB, Albany, NY 12206. -- CL

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The Sparkling World Of Art Glass

by Eve M. Kahn

t glass is one of the oldest architectural art forms: It first appeared on Christian basilicas in the 3rd and 4th centuries. It blossomed on the great Gothic cathedrals of the 12th and 13th centuries, and then traveled to America in the mid-19th century, where designers revolutionized it. And many innovations still come from the U.S.

Etched, beveled, and carved glass first appeared on American homes in the mid-19th century, while churches of the era typically imported richly-colored paisley patterns from Europe. Toward the end of the century, stained glass became a residential necessity, and even modest dwellings contained at least a stained-glass transom or a stairway lite, as did many small commercial buildings. Major American glass studios appeared, making opalescent and other spectacular windows for churches and elegant homes. The popularity of these ornate designs and colors waned in the 1920's, and not until the 1970's did art glass make a residential and commercial comeback. Churches, however, have continued to use art glass, typically in brilliantly colored, abstract forms.

Like so many reborn traditional crafts, stained glass has now become almost commonplace. An art-glass studio occupies a storefront on many small-town Main Streets, and traditional- and not-so-traditional homes around the country boast beveled, etched, leaded, or stained panels, usually surrounding the entries. Glamorous hotels, casinos, and shopping malls also commission glass art. Restoration is, of course, big business as well, because the thousands of windows installed between 1870 and 1920 now need repair. New glass types have been invented, such as dichroic glass (it changes color as you move around), and old-glass simulators have been revived, including iridized glass, on which the surface resembles a soap bubble.

A few words about protective glazing, one of the biggest headaches in restoring or building large stained-glass panels: In the 1970's, it seems every urban church nervously tacked Leexan panels over its windows. Lexan does not break, so experts still agree that it suits neighborhoods prone to heavy vandalism. However, Lexan's drawbacks are substantial. It covers a window's intricate texture with a matte, 'blind' surface. It can yellow and require replacement after a few years. And it is more expensive than glass. The best alternatives are leaded panes (see The Greenl en Studio's solution, page 9) or sheets of tempered or laminated glass.

For information on choosing an art-glass studio and specifying windows, the Stained Glass Association of America publishes a free brochure: SGAA, 4050 Broadway, Ste. 219, Kansas City, MO 64111 (800) 888-7422. Professionals involved in large restoration projects may want to send $5 for Julie Sloan's booklet, "Restoring Stained Glass: Terms, Potential Problems, & Suggested Approaches" (available through McKennon Safierreee Associates, Toneta Pike Ltd, Brewster, NY 10509 (914) 278-2187). Ms. Sloan is a consultant who documents stained glass, produces specifications, estimates costs, and oversees restoration.

Who's In This Special Report

There are several hundred art glass studios in the U.S., so to publish a list of only 28 obviously requires some arbitrary decisions. We based our selections on: (1) Companies that will execute traditional designs and/or restoration; (2) Companies that seemed particularly interested in serving the needs of professionals involved with historical work; and (3) Companies that supplied us with sufficient information about their capabilities. The art-glass studios listed in the SourceList on pages 11 and 12 fall into two basic categories: Those that opened in the '70s in response to stained glass's rebirth, and those that have been around since its turn-of-the-century heyday. Some concentrate on restoration work while others prefer new projects. Most are small, typically employing less than a dozen people. Some perform all work in-house, while others send glass out to be bent, beveled, or etched. And all possess large inventories of old and new glass types.

If you need information immediately, call or write these companies directly. We've provided all contact information in the SourceList. (Please mention TRADITIONAL BUILDING.) If you simply need information to update your files, you may find it more convenient to use the enclosed Product Information Card or the Form on page 38.

Inherited Art Glass

Michael Padovan grew up in the stained-glass business, helping his father. "He put me to work cementing windows," Michael recalls. "I resisted at first, and then I grew to love it." He has run Jersey Art Stained Glass Studio for 19 years, producing windows mainly for restaurants, homes, and churches.

Two recent projects show his versatility: He built a variety of Tiffany-style Mediterranean landscape windows (shown) for a San Juan restaurant, and for a New Jersey banquet hall he assembled a series of Prairie School beveled- and clear textured-glass panels. For more information on Jersey Art Stained Glass Studio, see the pullout SourceList in this section. —EMK

A GLASS ACT

William J. Pike worked for Tiffany in New York City before founding his own studio in Rochester, N.Y., in 1908. "We come from a great heritage," says Pike's granddaughter, Valerie O'Hara Murray, who now runs the firm with her father James O'Hara as consultant.

Most of their work is local and ecclesiastical; shown is one of six triple-lancet windows that Pike Stained Glass produced for an Avon, N.Y., church. They also design and repair commercial and residential projects, including a pair of 6-by-10-ft. Victorian skylights for a Rochester steak house and etched-glass panels for a ski lodge in Swain, N.Y. For more on Pike Stained Glass Studios, see the SourceList. —EMK

ART GLASS

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The Don of Domes

Allen Dragge worked for Buckminster Fuller before founding Reflection Studios in 1980, and apparently the patron saint of geodesics had an effect on Dragge's current efforts: He specializes in restoring stained-glass domes. He's worked on them for the Hibernia Bank (shown), Olympic Club, Carnegie Library, and Sheraton Palace ("about the size of a football field," he reports), all in San Francisco. He also rebuilt the 38,240-piece dome at Redwood City's San Mateo County Courthouse.

None of these projects suffered much damage in the earthquake. "The courthouse lost two parapets and 40% of the interior plaster," Dragge says, "but the dome held." His secret: A suspension system that absorbs shocks but doesn't detract from the dome's appearance. (He won't share more details of this invention.) He has also developed a rigging apparatus that enables his crews to dismantle and re-install skylights without filling the room below with scaffolding. "It's like the daring young man on the flying trapeze — with a safety net," says Dragge.

For more on Reflection Studios, see the SourceList in this section. —EMK

JEWELLED GLASS

Few stained-glass artisans press their own jewels anymore, but Val Sigstedt still does. Proprietor of Sigstedt Studio, he's been studying glass since he apprenticed with a master in 1948. He's best known for his jewel-filled pieces for Tavern on the Green in New York and Maxwell's Plum in San Francisco, but in the past year he's ventured far from those con- vivial places.

Mr. Sigstedt designed and built five stained-glass murals for the Graduate Hospital Imaging Center in Philadelphia (shown). Patients often spend an hour in rooms there, motionless, while machines study them. Sigstedt's works incorporate peaceful foliage, landscapes, and jewel-studded rivers with interpretations of the images the Center's machines produce — from single cells to brain vessels. He also accepts residential commissions, and especially enjoys designing Tiffany-style windows so well that "they're indistinguishable from the real thing."

For more on Sigstedt Studio, see the pullout SourceList. —EMK

Glass from Down Under

Fraser Studio opened in 1988, after David Fraser had apprenticed for ten years with a Yugoslavian-trained stained-glass master. This spring, Fraser received one of his most intriguing assignments so far; it came, literally, from underground. A local congregational church discovered six geometric c.1870 stained-glass windows buried in its basement.

"They were taken out when the church was remodeled in 1927 and then forgotten," Fraser says. "The Gothic frames are 13 ft. tall and only a little decayed, and the glass is pristine." He plans to restore the windows so that the church can sell them (contact him for prices and other details). Fraser also undertakes new work, mainly residential and ecclesiastical.

For more information on Fraser Studio, see the pullout SourceList in this section. —EMK

ALWAYS LEARNING

Marchese & Hamersma is a 57-year-old art-glass studio that's belonged to John and Richard Civitello since 1984.

The father-and-son team have about 85 years' glass experience between them. "Eventually you get to be an old master craftsman," says son Richard. "I'm not there yet, but my dad is, and even he's still learning."

Their specialty is ecclesiastical and residential work, mainly in the mid-Atlantic area. "We'll do traditional, abstract, Byzantine, Edwardian . . . whatever," Richard says. Shown are some sparkling beveled- and stained-glass units they installed in a Carlsbad, New Jersey, restaurant.

For more information on Marchese & Hamersma, see the pullout SourceList in this section. —EMK
Joseph and Richard Lamb may never have become as famous as their contemporaries, John LaFarge and Louis Tiffany, but the Lambs may also have built a better window. "They came to the business with a working knowledge of glass," says Donald Samick, who bought Lamb Studios from the family in 1970. "LaFarge and Tiffany were painters first. The Lambs knew how to engineer a window that would last. I've restored a number of their works; I admire them, and I try to follow their lead."

Recently, Lamb's work was shown for Wells College. Samick has adapted the company to the modern world "mainly in the business end," he says. For design ideas, clients can sift through stacks of the Lambs' sketches.

For more information on Lamb Studios, see the pullout SourceList in this section. -EMK

Greenland Studio's resume is impressive. They have restored dozens of Frank Lloyd Wright, John LaFarge, and Tiffany windows. For museums around the country, they have designed art-glass exhibits and restored windows up to 600 years old (shown is a c.1900 work they restored for the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts). And in 1984 they established an architectural woodworking division, which has rebuilt hundreds of wood window frames for historic buildings on the East Coast; it is currently working on the South Street Seaport Museum.

Their most demanding restoration projects at the moment include the c.1913 Coty building's facade in Manhattan—a three-story slab of Lalique cast glass and steel—and the rotunda at New York City's Municipal Building.

Owner Mel Greenland divides his time between Greenland's Manhattan headquarters and an in-house workshop at the Church of St. Ann and the Holy Trinity in Brooklyn, whose 60 c.1847 windows were the first complete figural stained glass window ensemble created in the U.S. One of Greenland's most difficult tasks was choosing protective glazing. "We didn't want the 'blind eye' look of Lexan or a single cover sheet, and we wanted to uncover the Gothic tracery. So we borrowed an idea from Canterbury Cathedral: We used diamond-pane hand-blown glass and fitted it very close to the tracery. You can see the diamond pattern from inside on a sunny day, but it's not overpowering, and the outside looks so graceful."

For more information on Greenland Studio, see pullout SourceList in this section. -EMK

In ten years of restoring ecclesiastical art glass, Joseph Beyer of Beyer Stained Glass has learned about the different types that came to America in the mid-19th century. "Catholic and Lutheran churches tend to have German windows, and Episcopal churches often have English windows," Beyer says. "The styles are very different. The English ones have a William Morris/Arts and Crafts feeling, while the German ones are almost Wagnerian: They're overblown, with big-breasted women and heavy chiaroscuro painting."

Beyer can repair and reproduce all kinds of windows; he rebuilt the church triptych (shown), which included painted faces, rippled glass, and up to three layers of mosaics. The studio also works on new commercial and residential projects. In progress is an etched-glass panel depicting movie stars, which will hang near a popcorn booth at a Philadelphia theater.

"We prefer to get involved during the design stage," Beyer says. "We can help architects translate scribbles into specs — we know what's a good idea and what's impossible with glass."

For more about Beyer Stained Glass, consult the SourceList. -EMK
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SOURCE FOR ANTIQUE ART GLASS
Most of the art glass studios included in our Source List have stocks of antique art glass panels for sale as well as new glass. In addition to art glass studios, numerous architectural salvage outlets stock greater or lesser collections of antique art glass. Listed below are a few architectural salvage dealers who are known by the editors to carry a fairly extensive selection of antique art glass:

- **Architectural Antiques Exchange** - 715 North 2nd Street, Dept. TB, Philadelphia, PA 19123 (215) 922-3669
- **Florida Victorian Architectural Antiques** - 901 West First Street, Dept. TB, Sanford, FL 32771 (407) 321-5767
- **Great American Salvage** - 34 Cooper Square, Dept. TB, New York, NY 10003 (212) 505-0070, Other showrooms: Montpelier, VT (802) 223-7711; New Haven, CT (203) 624-1009; Sag Harbor, NY (516) 725-2272; Jacksonville, FL (904) 396-8081; Middleburg, VA (703) 687-5980
- **Omega Salvage** - 2407 San Pablo Avenue, Dept. TB, Berkeley, CA 94702 (415) 843-7358
- **Salvage One** - 1524 S. Sangamon Street, Dept. TB, Chicago, IL 60608 (312) 733-0098
- **United House Wrecking** - 535 Hope Street, Dept. TB, Stamford, CT 06906 (203) 348-5371
- **Urban Artifacts** - 4700 Wissahickon Avenue, Dept. TB, Philadelphia, PA 19144 (215) 844-8330
- **Westlake Architectural Antiques** - 3315 Westlake Drive, Dept. TB, Austin, TX 78746 (512) 325-1110

YE OLDE GLAS SHOPPE

Neve Daisterre Glass (middle English for "morning-star glass") wears many hats. They can etch, bevel (shown), and slump glass in house; they can mill glass, and often supervise the installation of their own and other people's stained glass. Owner Alfred Brickel will not use Lexan: "Even the improved formulas don't last more than five years," he says. He recently installed some tempered-glass storm windows on St. John's Cathedral in Cleveland. "To match the sandstone, we baked white sand into the aluminum frames," Brickel says. "When the sandstone surface ages, the frames will too." Another current project is the rebuilding of some Tudor diamond-paned windows at an Ohio house built in 1475 (yes, 1475; it was shipped here from England.)

For more about Neve Daisterre Glass, see the Source List. —EMK
### TRADITIONAL BUILDING'S ART GLASS SourceList

**BY EVE M. KAHN**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMPANY</th>
<th>LITERATURE</th>
<th>Stock Designs/ Sizes</th>
<th>Beveled</th>
<th>Etched/Engraved</th>
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# Traditional Building's Art Glass SourceList

**By Eve M. Kahn**

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**Art-Glass Innovators**

Harold W. Cummings founded Cummings Studios in 1922, and he soon pioneered lacient mosaics: He poured hot lead over a field of glass chips. Now run by his son and granddaughter, the firm pursues restoration work as well as new techniques. “We’ve looked into restoring the lacient mosaics,” says Christie Cummings Shulburne. “They’re going to be tough; they’re a horse of a different color.”

Cummings Studios specializes in large projects for commercial, civic, and ecclesiastical buildings around the country. They work with a number of well-known designers, including David Wilson, Albina Elskus, and Hilda Sachs (shown in the traditional-looking vine-patterned windows Ms. Sachs designed for H. H. Richardson’s Senate Chambers in Albany, N.Y.). Currently Cummings is repairing dozens of stained-glass panels at Harvard University’s Memorial Hall, where the literary figures and gods that gaze down on test-taking students have been unrecognizably dirty for decades.

For more information on Cummings Studios, see the pullout SourceList in this section.—EMK

---

**THE LONGEST COMMISSION**

Since its founding in 1898, Willet Studios has amassed a library of 2,000 books, 200,000 slides, and countless drawings. “We use them to research different religions and subjects—from flowers to astronauts,” says Gussie Willet, the founder’s granddaughter-in-law and wife of the president, E. Crosby Willet.

The company’s work is mainly institutional and commercial—"Our overhead doesn’t allow us to do little door lites," Mrs. Willet says—and appears in all 50 states and in 14 countries. Some of Willet’s craftspeople have worked for the company for decades, and among their achievements are the window at West Point’s Cadet Chapel (shown). Two windows were installed annually from 1910 to 1976, the longest continuous commission in the history of American stained glass.

Willet concentrates on new work while Hauser Studios, which purchased Willet in 1977, undertakes large restorations. (Hauser Studios of Stained Glass, 177 Lafayette St., Winona, MN 55987 (800) 533-5360.)

For more on Willet Studios, see the SourceList in this section.—EMK

---

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At any given moment, Shenandoah Studios is maintaining a half-dozen restoration crews in the field and has 60 new-window projects in house. They work nationwide, in traditional and contemporary styles.

The studio is well known for its large glass collection, often salvaged from windows that are beyond repair. When Shenandoah recently restored a stained-glass skylight at the Library of Congress, the Capitol's assistant architect, William Ensign, commented, "It took great skill to match the colors. The repair work isn't noticeable."

For more on Shenandoah Studios, see the Source List in this section. —EMK

Whaddaya Know —

Glass from Kokomo

Sunburst Stained Glass is located not far from Kokomo Opalescent Glass Co., a manufacturer founded in 1888 that has begun to reproduce their turn-of-the-century glass colors. "We work closely with Kokomo," says Sue Colvin, Sunburst's owner. "If we need a piece made with one of their old formulas, they'll do it for us."

Sunburst houses three divisions: Kitchen cabinet door inserts; new work (about one third commercial and residential, the rest ecclesiastical); and restoration (mainly ecclesiastical). For cabinet doors, "we can match paint or wallpaper samples," Colvin says. Their restoration work ranges from single windows — the c.1910 piece shown was "in pretty sad shape" until Sunburst rebuilt it for a local hospital — to whole buildings.

For more about Sunburst Stained Glass, see the Source List. —EMK

Architects Ralls Melotte and Richard Morse have divided Melotte-Morse into three divisions: architecture, asbestos abatement, and stained glass. Architecture and glass occasionally overlap, for example when the firm designs a church, but usually the stained-glass section is involved in its own large-scale projects.

Two recent assignments involved repairing 287 zinc-camed windows for Frank Lloyd Wright's Dana-Thomas house in Springfield, Ill., and rebuilding the colorful 19th-century dome (shown) at the Illinois State Capitol. To reach the 9,000-piece, 26-ft.-dia. dome, Melotte-Morse built a platform 118 ft. above the rotunda floor. From the platform, workers still had to climb a 315-step spiral stair to reach the stained-glass panels in order to lower them for shop repairs.

For more information on Melotte-Morse Stained Glass, see the pullout Source List. —EMK
Subliminal Stained Glass

Larry Casola spots stained glass everywhere. "You can't turn on the TV anymore without seeing it," he says. "It's in the background in all the ads, the soap operas, even 'The Cosby Show.' These subliminal suggestions, he adds, are influencing the booming Florida construction business that Casola Stained Glass services.

"We've been building windows for model homes and private homes," he says. "Textured glass is very popular, because it doesn't overpower the room; we've got 30 varieties on hand." He also works on commercial and ecclesiastical structures, in any style. The Victorian units (shown) appear in a Brooklyn, N.Y., house.

For more information on Casola Stained Glass, see the pullout Source List in this section. —EMK

Something Different

Great Panes just finished their 1,000th custom window. The 10-year-old company works mainly in the Baltimore/Washington area; the peacocks shown hang in an Owings Mills, Md., home. The studio almost never duplicates any pieces it has previously produced. "People want to make their house stand out," says owner Len Berkowitz. "They ask for something unique." Among the company's ecclesiastical projects is a 6-by-16-ft. traditional religious scene for a local Korean Presbyterian church. For a 19th-century church the studio restored six 3-by-15-ft. windows, and for a Baltimore elementary school, they're currently creating a very contemporary 20-by-18-ft. fused glass mural. For more on Great Panes, see the pullout Source List. —EMK

Beyer Stained Glass creates windows that speak fluently in Georgian, Federal, Victorian or contemporary designs. Restoration becomes fine craftsmanship under our attention. Contact Joe Beyer for a consultation about your traditional building project.

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JULY/AUGUST 1990 15
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Design/Fabrication: Shenandoah Artists design and fabricate intricate and inspiring stained or leaded glass masterpieces using traditional methods in combination with today's technology. Our Master Artists create custom designs in Traditional, European and Contemporary styles.

Restoration: Complete restoration of valuable stained glass is carefully performed by the Shenandoah Master Craftsmen. Even the most difficult problems, such as deterioration, burglar, fire damage, pictorial hand-painted glass replacement, decaying cement, and weather damaged framing can be solved.

Protection/Insulation: Concerns about weathering, vandalism, burglary, or accidents are a worry of the past when Shenandoah Master Craftsmen install protective coverings. Stained glass can be insulated for energy savings, remain watertight and weather resistant, and still maintain the exterior beauty of the edifice.

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Shenandoah Studios of Stained Glass Inc.
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See also our Magnolia Window in the section on Art Glass

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Circle No. 455

When Lyn Hovey founded his stained-glass studio in 1977, he says, "I was like a spindly little plant in dry soil." He knew how spectacular stained glass could be, having studied it with masters around the country for 8 years, but he had a tough time convincing architects and designers that this old art form could be updated new buildings. His first assignments came from academic and art-minded homeowners near his Cambridge, Mass., studio. "They're the kind of people who like to go their own way," Hovey says.

He and his staff (including three in-house designers) have produced windows for buildings around the world. Their work ranges from traditional painted pieces (shown) to hard-edged combinations of mirrors, lenses, and dichroic glass. Most of their restoration work takes place on site in Massachusetts, but "we also get mysterious crates of glass all the time, from all over," Hovey says.

For more information on Lyn Hovey Studio, see the pullout SourceList in this section. —EMK

Landmark Glass

Rohl's Stained & Leaded Glass Studio has restored stained glass at five of New York City's most familiar buildings: Riverside Church, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Trinity Church on Wall St, Carnegie Hall, and the American Airlines terminal at Kennedy Airport, which once housed the world's longest stained-glass window.

Now run by the second and third generation of Rohls, the 70-year-old firm has worked on important structures around the country. Their English branch handles domestic and export commissions and is headed by Frederick W. Cole, who supervised the restoration of Canterbury Cathedral's stained glass for 12 years (and designed the traditional piece shown on the left).

For more on Rohl's Stained & Leaded Glass, see the pullout SourceList in this section. —EMK
Partners since 1983, Tage Jakobsen and William Miles of Artisan Glass Works have watched their customers evolve. "There's much more understanding of restoration standards and technology today," says Miles. "People understand why we won't cover up problems with protective glazing."

While Artisan also tackles new projects in contemporary and traditional styles, their restorations tend to be their most demanding assignments. They recently rebuilt 16 c.1914 opalescent windows for a fire-gutted chapel at Andrews Air Force Base, near Washington, D.C. Shown are Mr. Miles and workman George Kearson re-installing one of five c.1905 skylights at the Maryland State House.

For more on Artisan Glass Works, see the Source List.—EMK

The Big Time

Conrad Schmitt Studios, located in New Berlin, Wisc., executes all sizes of stained-glass commissions, but their present projects tend to be substantial. The studio maintains over 900 glass colors and textures in its inventory, some of which were recently used to repair the Tiffany windows at the King Ranch in Kingsville, Texas. The studio is now involved in a 3-year restoration of the University of Notre Dame's Sacred Heart Church, which will include the windows as well as the interior. The company was founded and still operates as a full-service decorative arts workshop.

Also in progress is 720 sq. ft. of new stained glass for the All Faiths Chapel at Father Flanagan's Boys Town in Omaha, Nebraska. Each piece will be painted, and the finished building will resemble a 13th-century cathedral. Shown is a triptych from Milwaukee's Immanuel Presbyterian Church, which required a year to research and repair.

For more information on Conrad Schmitt Studios, see the pullout Source List in this section.—EMK

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Circle No. 26

July/August 1990 17
Profile: HOLMES
continued from page 5

manner of antebellum structures with sketch pad and folding rule," recalls Nicholas Two.
Continuing the tradition, in 1975 Nicholas Three spent the summer months in Talequah, Okla.,
doing the same things in the governmental buildings of the Cherokee Nation that his grandfather had done 40 years before.
Because of this close family association with HABS, Nicholas Two established a new company policy:
When the firm makes measured drawings of an historic structure, the drawings are usually made according to HABS standards. This allows the owners of the property to donate the drawings to the HABS collection in the Library of Congress.
Nicholas Two and Three also maintain close connections with their alma mater — the architecture school at Auburn. One recent project was to promote interest in measured drawings of historic buildings among Auburn students. Working with Robert Kapsch, head of HABS, Larry Oaks, Exec. Dir. of the Alabama Historical Commission, and Robert Gamble, Architectural Historian with the Commission, Nicholas Holmes, Jr. helped interest the Architecture Dept. in setting up a course on measured drawings done to HABS standards. The course has proved tremendously popular and has resulted in several Peterson prizes for Auburn students. (The Peterson Prize is awarded annually by the AIA's Committee on Historic Resources for the best student work in delineating HABS drawings.) In 1989, nine students from Auburn worked on HABS summer teams — more than any other architecture school.

And through Nicholas Three's efforts, the Alabama AIA now awards the annual Burkhart Prize for the best HABS drawing produced by an Auburn or Tuskegee student.

Architecture In The Gene Pool
In the case of both Nicholas Two and Nicholas Three, it was far from a foregone conclusion that they would go
continued on next page

The Alabama State Capitol in Montgomery was rebuilt in 1851 by architect Barachias Holt after an 1849 fire destroyed the original building. The East Wing was added to the rear of the building in 1885. South and North Wings were added in 1907 and 1912 after the Lockwood plan was declared the winner of a design competition. Charles McKim of McKim, Mead, and White was then consulted and had great influence in the final design of the wings.

The firm of N.H. Holmes, Architect, designed an expansion of the Capitol's East front, which is now under construction. The Holmes' neoclassical design includes a colonnaded porch that extends the front 50 ft., as well as 1-story additions to each side of the porch that house an auditorium, gift shop, and mechanicals. The stucco-on-brick construction echoes the original building.

Mobile City Hall, built in 1857, was devastated by Hurricane Frederic. The Holmes firm did three complete sets of drawings for its repair: (1) Drawings for temporary repairs; (2) A full set of drawings for the insurance adjusters; and finally (3) A set of drawings for the restoration that, among other things, removed many decades of accretions.
into the architecture business. In fact, both initially resisted the idea. The fact that they both ended up as architects suggests that there must be an architect gene somewhere in the Holmes DNA.

Nicholas Two originally set out to study chemistry. "I had watched my father struggle during the Depression," he recalls, "and concluded that architecture was a very risky profession." But World War II interrupted his chemistry studies. Serving in the Army from 1943 to 1946 changed his perspective on careers; he decided he wanted to be in business for himself — and architecture didn't look so bad after all. After graduating with an architecture degree from Auburn, Nicholas Two worked for three other firms before entering partnership with his father in 1954. (Nicholas, Sr., passed away in 1957).

Nicholas Three went through a similar odyssey. He originally graduated from Auburn with a B.S. in Forestry. "But after working in forestry for a while I realized that if I didn't own the forest I would always be working for someone else." So he went back to Auburn and in 1978 emerged with a B.S. in Environmental Design along with a Bachelor of Architecture. Late in the same year he joined his father's firm.

When asked if all this family togetherness doesn't get claustrophobic at times, both father and son demur. Nicholas Two points out: "We each have our own set of clients, and serve in mutually supportive roles on each other's projects." Nicholas Three adds: "We focus on solving functional problems — the real problems of architecture, and have respect for each other's opinions."

However they worked out the inner dynamics of a family business, they clearly have hit on a winning formula. There's only one major question in the firm's future: Have either of Nicholas Three's two daughters, Kate (8) and Clara (6), inherited the Holmes architecture gene?!

**Division 8**

**DOORS & WINDOWS**

The 100-year-old New Jersey State House, an eclectic Victorian building capped by a gold dome, contains 170 doors, each one unique. Camden Window & Millwork is restoring those doors (see photo). "The building was empty for a few years, and before that it went through a lot of wear and tear," says president Michael Mullock. "Some of the doors have to be replaced, some have been badly repaired over the years, some have delaminated." The company is also working on the state house in Providence, R.I., another gold-domed building: "That seems to be our specialty this year," Mullock says. They prefer to work in mahogany for exterior doors, and for interior doors the wood is "the customer's choice," Mullock says, and he adds, "If it's ever been made in wood we can re-make it."

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Amid the mantels, molding, paneling, doors and bookcases in Colonial Woodworks' catalog, you'll find four types of windows: Palladian, double-hung, half-round, and round. The designs, according to CEO Carl Batthor, are interpretations but not replicas of the fenestration found on old buildings. 'The other day I saw my Palladian on a railroad station in a little Pennsylvania town,' he says. 'Goes to show you how art imitates life.' Four fluted pilasters surround the three windows on the Palladian, and the central arched unit is surrounded by a keystone. The half-round and round windows have 3-in.-thick sash.

The double-hung, Colonial's best-selling window, comes with two layers of 3/8-in.-thick glass and can have up to 18 lites; custom variations are also available.

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The company recently completed a steel-core wood door measuring 10 by 18 feet for a residence. "It cost as much as a little house used to cost," says Stroeh. "Architects are interesting people. And we'll build whatever they'll pay for.

Pictured is the entry for a Southport, CT renovation. The door and sidelights were built as a single unit by Tischler.

For more information contact: Tischler und Sohn, Three Greenwich Office Park, 51 Weaver St, Dept. TB, Greenwich, CT 06830 (203) 622-6558.

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Or Circle No. 131
The Skies of Paris

The Twigs is perhaps less well known than other reproduction wallpaper manufacturers, but their work is no less noteworthy. They offer about 180 documentary papers, mostly English or American, and their colors are "either original or the kind that would have been used at that time," says president Arthur Athas.

Shown is part of their "Monuments of Paris" scenic, reproduced from an 1814 original for the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The sky is soft blue, the buildings are arranged along the banks of the Seine, and the passersby are seen swimming, strolling, boating, or riding horses. The panels cover 48 ft. of wall. Each stands 9-1/2 ft. tall, and a set of 22 costs $9,000. The "Embassy" edition, which reaches 15 ft., costs $9,750.

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Circle No. 41
It's difficult to find a carpenter who can build a staircase these days. But there are many specialty shops that can provide you with everything from an economical metal spiral to an elaborate "Gone With The Wind" curving double stairway.

By Clem Labine

Building a staircase (other than simple celler stairs) is the ultimate test of a carpenter. And it's a test that most of today's house carpenters wouldn't flunk. In our age of specialization, the knowledge of how to lay out and detail staircases and handrails resides in perhaps no more than 100 shops in the U.S. If you've ever watched a pro lay out a curved stair and handrail, it's not difficult to see why stairbuilding is such a rare skill. Stairbuilding depends on an extensive knowledge of solid geometry. And most woodworkers today simply don't have the skills in mathematics and geometry necessary to cope with curved stairs.

Stair construction has always been complicated. Housebuilding manuals of the 19th century devoted almost half of their pages to stair layout... replete with diagrams that even today's successful stairbuilders have difficulty deciphering. Part of the problem lay with the 19th century authors; they tended to combine several steps in a single diagram. So if you don't already know the subject intimately, it's hard to figure out the layout sequences.

Throwing A Curve

Generating the rail for a curved stair is the most difficult task in all of woodworking; it's also the operation that separates the men from the boys among the stairbuilding shops. When you look at the curved rail made by even some well-known shops, it's not unusual to see awkward transitions where the curve changes. That's because the rail wasn't laid out by the old-fashioned tangent method. When selecting a shop to do a curved staircase, one clarifying question is: "How do you generate your curved handrail?" If the answer comes back something like: "We generate our handrail out of solid using the old one-plane tangent method," then you know you've found someone who really knows about stairbuilding.

If the shop doesn't use the old tangent method for rail with compound curves, you'd be well advised to check the handrail on their past work that most closely resembles your job. See if the rail has the graceful smooth flow to the curve that you're looking for. Rails on elliptical stairs are the most difficult.

Who's In The SourceList

You get the idea from Sweet's Catalog that there's only a handful of companies in the stair business. But we have collected information on 53 suppliers of staircases and stair parts... ranging from individual craftsmen to large stairbuilding factories. Although the accompanying SourceList is the most complete list of staircases and parts suppliers we've seen in print, we recognize it is not complete. A few of the larger stairbuilders didn't reply to our requests for information (perhaps they don't consider themselves part of the traditional products marketplace). And there are undoubtedly some smaller suppliers that we just aren't aware of.

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American Staircases & Parts SourceList

By Clem Labine

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<tr>
<td>Boise Molding &amp; Lumber Co.</td>
<td>Major architectural millwork shop that supplies both stock and custom stairway parts. Balusters, newels, hand rail, treads &amp; risers. Will also build curved and straight stairs to your specifications.</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td>Circle No. 317</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bolton Woodturning, P.O. Box 999, Dept. TB</td>
<td>Architectural wood turnings — stock or custom — including newels and balusters. Any wood, any shape, any size, any quantity. No minimum.</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td>Circle No. 474</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boston Turning Works</td>
<td>Custom wood turning. Balusters, newel posts, fence posts, finials, porch posts, columns, column bases, and caps. Can work from samples or architect's drawing. No minimum.</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td>Circle No. 554</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bruce Post Co.</td>
<td>Produces newel posts, balusters and accompanying finials. All heart red wood newels are sanded and ready for finish. Custom styles available upon request.</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td>Circle No. 375</td>
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<tr>
<td>Challis Stairways, Inc.</td>
<td>Manufacturer of custom wood stairs in straight, spiral, and circular configurations. Also a line of stair and hand railing components that includes rails, newels, balusters, fittings, treads, and risers.</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coffman Stair Parts</td>
<td>Hardwood stair parts and preassembled curved and spiral stairs in red oak or beech. Starting shapes, treads &amp; risers, rails, newels, balusters, fittings, treads &amp; risers available through distributors.</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooper Stair Company</td>
<td>Manufactures custom-fitted hardwood staircases from a wide variety of styles. Straight, circular, spiral, and L-shaped configurations available.</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curvoflate</td>
<td>Architectural millwork shop that specializes in solid oak curved and spiral stairs — stock or custom. Large selection of hardwood fittings, custom balusters, and stair parts.</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custom Woodturning</td>
<td>Architectural woodturning shop produces balusters, newels, and handrail. They can work to your drawings or sample — or you can select from their collection of authentic period century patterns.</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td>Circle No. 14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dahleke Stair Co.</td>
<td>Small custom stairbuilding shop. Each stair is designed and fabricated individually; no catalog stair parts are ever used. All styles, in any wood specified.</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dresswood Manufacturing Co.</td>
<td>Supplies custom wood spiral and circular stairs over the entire U.S. Each stair is detailed for the specific application, with variations possible in wood species, layout, balusters, treads, and trim.</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td>Circle No. 476</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dupwood Turners</td>
<td>Small turning shop provides balusters, newels, rails, columns, and porch parts — 100% custom. Can work from a sample or your drawings.</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td>Circle No. 477</td>
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</tbody>
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- **Spiral**
- **Straight**

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<tr>
<td>River Bend Turnings</td>
<td>Small custom turning shop producing newel posts, balusters, and other specialty turnings in lengths up to 96 in. Any size order accepted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salter Industries</td>
<td>Supplies metal spiral stairs in standard and custom sizes. Available in diameters from 3 ft. 6 in. to 6 ft. 6 in.; larger sizes are available on request. Shipped knocked down.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L.J. Smith, Inc.</td>
<td>Extensive line of stair parts and stair systems for straight, U-type, and L-type stairs. Stair parts and systems are available through distributors. Also has pre-assembled circular and spiral stairways.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spiral Manufacturing</td>
<td>Supplies curved and spiral stair kits in wood. Sectional curved stair system is a partially assembled stair in kit form; all parts are sold oak. Also has a patented spiral stair with inside &amp; outside handrail.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spiral Stairs of America</td>
<td>Manufactures one-piece welded spiral stairs. Offers optional oak handrails, oak stair treads, and oak panels.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish Spiral Stairs</td>
<td>Large selection of solid hardwood spiral, quarter-circle, and half-circle stairs. No center poles. Diameters of 4 ft. 6 in. to 10 ft. 11 in. available. Also represents Coffman.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stair-Pak Products Co.</td>
<td>Alkaida spiral stairs in four basic styles. One design, in Philippine mahogany, is intended for outdoor use. Units are custom-manufactured to any specified height and are shipped knocked-down.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stairways, Inc.</td>
<td>Custom-designed spiral stairways manufactured from standard components, both metal and wood. Options available on wood spindles: any diameter, wood species, baluster style, rail, and landing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stepmore &amp; Wife</td>
<td>Manufactures and distributes unique Victorian spiral and straight staircases made from cast iron. Suitable for both interior and exterior use. Options: Baluster styles, polished brass handrail.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tracy Corp.</td>
<td>Supplies stock stair parts, custom-milled stair parts, and handcrafted railings — in a variety of design options. Specialties in curved and spiral staircases; large selection of stock stair parts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tiffany Stair Co.</td>
<td>Wood spiral stairs without center pole, inside and outside handrails. Spindles range in diameter from 5 ft. to 8 ft. 6 in. Also supplies a wood straight stair with open rails.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>York Spiral Stair</td>
<td>Large inventory of hand rails, rail fittings, newel, balusters, treads, risers, brackets, etc. Also represent Coffman and L.J. Smith. Custom work available. Also handles Crafts Stairs.</td>
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STAIRCASES & PARTS SourceList, continued

An Old Company With New Ideas

STAIRCASES & PARTS SourceList, continued

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<tr>
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<td>Supplies curved and spiral stair kits in wood. Sectional curved stair system is a partially assembled stair in kit form; all parts are sold oak. Also has a patented spiral stair with inside &amp; outside handrail.</td>
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<tr>
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