

GETTING Your Fix

Where to get your Rajasthan rewoven, your Palladian papered and your Saarinen souped up — direct from the Blackberrys and blotters of Houston's top decorators, designers, architects and aesthetes. Save this list: It's all about repair and rejuvenation, you know. **By Laurann Claridge**



METALWORK AND SILVERSMITHS

Peck & Company, 98 Dennis, 713.526.2590; peckandcompany.com. Owner/designer Bill Peck custom-designs everything metal, from elaborate tables and headboards to light fixtures, for designers from Houston to El Paso. A true artist down to his unique finishes, Peck is a busy man — but don't despair. His brilliant work is worth the wait.

FURNITURE REPAIR AND FABRICATION

DESIGNER ED EUBANKS SWEARS BY NEPTUNE, WHICH IS RENOWNED FOR TACKLING ANY REFINISHING AND REPAIR TASK.

Cullen Caners, *The Center (formerly Center for the Retarded)*, 3550 W. Dallas, 713.525.8400; cri-usa.org. Founded in 1979, Cullen Caners is known widely for its hand-cane, rush and wicker work, done with the precision and skill of an artisan.

James Farmer, 713.398.7657. This furniture artisan employs Old World techniques such as using solid wood, as well as wooden pegs and fasteners. Whenever possible, he also uses the same carving tools that were in use 200 years ago. With training in fine art, his painting technique on furniture is especially good and sought after by designers.

The Furniture Connoisseur, 1401-101 Sterrett St., 713.222.2888; thefurnitureconnoisseur.com. Robin Richardson is a former furniture maker who intuitively understands the TLC that fine wood furnishings require. His Web site and studio sell every hard-to-find, professional-grade cleaning product you can imagine, from wax to polish, leather to silver care, as well as his own line, The Furniture Butler. Maintenance services available.

Furniture Medic, 15614 Banty Falls Court, 713.723.2894. If it's wood, furniture medics Zeld and Paul Kaye can tend to its wounds — repairing, refinishing and restoring a piece to its original luster. These folks are also great with antiques, applying lots of care in the form of mild, water-based products that treat old grains gingerly.

Neptune Heritage Restoration, 319 Malone, 713.863.1201. Susan Neptune, owner of the remarkable Settlers Hardware shop, also runs this furniture-restoration business. Designer Ed Eubanks swears by

Neptune, which is renowned for tackling any refinishing and repair task, from precious 17th-century museum-quality antiques to mid-century modern pieces. Neptune also restores art objects and does caning work.

Restoration Builders, 415 N. Wayside, 713.839.1269; restoration-builders.com. Owner Jeff Granberry's 11,000-square-foot, climate-controlled workshop allows his team to take on complex and detailed work, from cabinet doors and furniture to custom hardware. Designer Laura Umansky is a client and sells pieces from his line in her store, Laura U Collection.

Rojas Artistic Design, 5500 Chippewa, 832.215.0043; rojasartisticdesigns.com. Victor Rojas builds custom contemporary furniture with cast aluminum, stainless steel, resin, fiberglass and wood.

West End Restoration, 6401 Stillman, 713.802.1431; imauctionco.com. David Lewis and Ernest Maese, the guys who run Lewis & Maese, repair antiques, too. David Moody, their man on the scene, repairs and rewires chandeliers, sconces and lamps, as well as silver polishing and repair and metal soldering.

HARDWARE

Settlers Hardware Co., 1901 W. Alabama, 713.524.2417. Architects and designers rely on Susan Neptune and her able crew at Settlers to locate antique and reproduction hardware.

LEATHER

Zoltan Olah, 4019 Valley Estate Dr., 281.589.0735. This artisan is carrying on a dying craft, working exclusively with leather. He's the man to call if you need a book rebound (limited editions and old family Bibles are his specialty), or a leather top on a desk replaced or repaired. He even does his own tooling by hand — a rarity.

LIGHTING

Alcon Lightcraft Co., 1424 W. Alabama, 713.526.0680. Have a chandelier, lamp or sconce that just doesn't light up your life anymore? Bring it to the lighting doctors at Alcon Lightcraft, and they'll rewire, restring or refurbish your prized illuminators. Alcon has a great selection of antique and reproduction lighting and parts, as well.

D'Zigner Resource (formerly VHH Design), 9434 Katy Freeway, 713.782.4176. Decorator Richard Holley said for years that Van Horn Hayward was one of his best sources for handmade and custom-fabricated lamps, lampshades and lamp bases made from most any object. Unfortunately, they're closing, but Diana Meade and Rod Tanner are taking over the biz and giving it a new name, D'Zigner Resource. Usually only to the trade, they'll oblige laymen if you're

AKERS IS YOUR SOURCE TO REPLATE, POLISH, RECAST MISSING PARTS, TIN-LINE COPPER COOKWARE, HAND-ENGRAVE OR MONOGRAM YOUR SILVER.

really polite and respectful of their artistry, says Holley.

House of Glass, 3319 Louisiana, 713.528.5289; houseofglasshouston.com. Besides selling hundreds of chandeliers and sconces, H of G can restore the wiring on crystal prisms or rework finishes by cleaning, waxing and polishing your faded pieces. Owners Art and Lynn Graeter have been at it awhile — just like Art's parents, who founded the place in 1948.

METALWORK AND SILVERSMITHS

Akers Metal Polishing Plating & Repair, 2223 Richmond, 713.527.8205; akersmetals.com. Since 1979, Sam Akers has handled all sorts of household metal repair and restoration. Akers is your source to replating, polish, recast missing parts, tin-line copper cookware, hand-engage or monogram your silver, or restore and fix broken silver, brass, copper and pewter.

Bright Metals of the Heights, 626 E. 11th St., 713.861.0729. This humble little workshop in the Heights can replating almost anything made with chrome, nickel, brass, copper and gold — new or antique, or just polish to perfection.

George Sacaris Studio, 2000 Nance St., 713.256.7733. This artisan, whose métier is metal work, trained to be an architect. With an eye for design detail,

he fabricates contemporary furniture and sculpture as well as architectural details including stair rails, doors, windows, lighting, or those custom walls that slide like barn doors across a wall.

Peck & Company, 98 Dennis, 713.526.2590; peckandcompany.com. Owner/designer Bill Peck custom-designs everything metal, from elaborate tables and headboards to light fixtures, for designers from Houston to El Paso. A true artist down to his unique finishes, Peck is a busy man — but don't despair. His brilliant work is worth the wait.

Vogler Sheet Metal Co. Inc., 705 Shepherd Dr., 713.861.1154; voglermetal.com. Contributing editor and renovation queen Carol Isaak Barden clued us in on this find. Owner Kenny Jeanes' team can take stainless, cold- and hot-rolled and galvanized steel, copper or brass, and make fireplace fronts, countertops, downspouts, planters, mailboxes, gates, gutters and more.

MILLWORK

Architectural Design Cabinet Works Inc., 5614 Royalton, 713.661.3641; architecturaldesigncab.com. Artisan Alex Cubelli creates exquisite custom cabinetry and architecturally compelling millwork (commercial and residential). His specialty is wood made with veneers and high-end exotic woods. From bookcases to customized moldings, his designs in wood, acrylic, glass, Corian, stone, metal or veneer inlays that run the gamut from traditional to contemporary.

Stonewood Studios, 713.870.7999; stonewoodstudios.net. Owner Sandy Kays has gained a following among contemporary home builders including Fulton Davenport and Carol Isaak Barden for European-style contemporary cabinets (with a frameless construction) that he builds at a fraction of the price of the big names. He also installs concrete counters in a variety of finishes.

CONCRETE AND STONE

Dungan Miller Design, 713.447.1720; dunganmiller.com. Owner David Miller works with a who's who of local designers, from Richard Holley and Joe Schaffer to Carlos Jiménez. Specializing in finishing and staining concrete, he's there the day the foundation slab is poured, supervising and finessing

its appearance (a trick courtesy of predecessors Terrell Suzanne Dungan), then returns upon the house's completion to stain/seal the flooring. He also specializes in the time-consuming task of micro-topping, creating a wafer-thin layer of concrete atop a counter that resembles porcelain.

Elegant Additions, 2426 Bartlett St., 713.522.0088; elegantadditions.net. This to-the-trade resource is known for its swank kitchens and bathrooms. But did you know it's also a resource for creating custom stone and concrete installations? From an onyx pedestal sink to a lightweight alternative to concrete counters, owner Julie Koch and her staff can source it for your architect and designer. They also create all kinds of custom hardware, such as drawer pulls and doorknobs.

James Dawson Design, 1802 Utah St., 713.864.4045; jamesdawsondesign.com. For the last 15 years, James Dawson has been creating custom furniture and counter surfaces made of myriad metals, concrete, Richlite and zinc. Decorator Tom Harper is a fan.

STEVEN GREGOR DVORAK RESURRECTED HIS GRANDDAD'S CONCRETE BUSINESS, BUT WE'RE BETTING GRAMPS WOULDN'T RECOGNIZE THE PLACE TODAY.

Kustom Concrete, 281.431.2873. KK specializes in staining concrete floors and countertops, as well as stamping and creating textures in concrete of every scale.

Spirit Ridge, 713.768.3026; spiritridge.biz. Owner Steven Gregor Dvorak resurrected his granddad's concrete business, but we're betting gramps wouldn't recognize the place today. Aside from pouring and casting anything in concrete, he can mix and match color hues, textures and sheens. Home emporium owner Pam Kuhl-Linscomb commissioned him to create the countertops in her stores.