



Tribune photo by Jose Deorio

Stuart Grannen, owner of Architectural Artifacts, which is now offering a custom-made furniture service.

The joy of specs

The 25-foot columns that had a glorious past as part of a mansion built in 1893 for the World's Columbian Exposition don't look like much, leaning against the wall in a warehouse of Architectural Artifacts Inc.

But strip the chipped paint from these fluted-pine towers, cut them to table height and fit an appropriate tabletop on the column base and you'll have a piece of furniture as well as a bit of history.

"We believe if you can imagine it, we can make it," says Stuart Grannen, who owns Architectural Artifacts and now is offering a custom-made furniture service.

Grannen says customers choose what they want from Artifacts' warehouse/gallery space and then the pieces are fabricated into fur-

niture according to customer specifications.

"You can design a beautiful piece of furniture by using stairway balustrades for legs or iron grilles or gates for tabletops," he says. "It's just a little this with a little that to make the pieces really interesting."

Artifacts' custom conversion service is headed by Roger Bungay, who is a welder by day at his company called Stinky Metalworks Inc., and a craftsman most nights and weekends at Artifacts. The "custom-made" service fees range from \$200 to \$1,600.

Architectural Artifacts, which specializes in 19th and 20th Century finds, is at 4325 N. Ravenswood Ave. Call 312-348-0622.

Pamela Sherrod