

Creativity in veneer

The Veneer Tech Craftsman's Challenge winners showcase fine wood veneer work.



The 2007 grand-prize winning ribbon service buffet by Paul Schurch features a 42-point radial match.



and tulipwood veneers for the framework."

The buffet features a 42-point radial match, a feat Schurch isn't sure he'll replicate in the future. "The goal of my service buffet was marrying classical design with a lively ribbon motif to create the illusion of depth and playfulness," says Schurch. "Marquetry lends the appearance of life to images such as these."

Craftsman's Challenge

The competition was sponsored by FDM and *CabinetMaker* recognizes excellence in woodwork and architectural woodwork that feature natural veneer and wood product applications. It doesn't matter how much or how little veneer is used in a project or where veneer material was purchased.

"The Craftsman's Challenge was designed to reward woodworkers who use natural veneer and wood products in the best way while achieving their projects' stated goals," says Jane Wharton, Veneer Technologies sales team leader and coordinator of the competition.

Besides honoring excellence in woodworking, the competition also rewards the industry distribution process. Jim Dumas of Certainly Wood, a distributor to Schurch Woodwork,

excellence in woodwork featuring natural veneer and wood products was awarded to Paul Schurch, Schurch Woodwork of Santa Barbara, Calif., for his ribbon service buffet.

"The piece is a combination of two different styles using veneer and inlay," says Schurch. "I used Swiss pearwood in the background, Nigerian satinwood for the ribbon and walnut burl

Look closely at a piece of furniture and unexpected details emerge that surprise and delight. This year's 2007 Veneer Tech Craftsman's Challenge Woodworking Competition winners can boast many of these details.

The \$5,000 grand prize for



The Performing Arts Center of Greater Miami captured the architectural woodworking award for Wallace S. Fetzer.

received a cash award of \$3,000; Greg Engle, distributor salesman, received \$2,000.

Award categories

More than 274 entries vied for top honors in six categories: architectural woodworking, cabinetry, furniture, specialty items, store fixtures and student designs. This year's winners include, for architectural woodworking, "Performing Arts Center of Greater Miami," by Wallace S. Fetzer, Fetzer Architectural Woodwork, Salt Lake City; for cabinetry, "Sycamore



This jewelry box by Roger Balcomb received an honorable mention in the specialty items category.

2007 Craftsman's Challenge honorable mention winners

Student Design: Trevor Doig, Selkirk College, Salmo, B.C., Canada; Chris Hedges, University of Rio Grande-Fine Woodworking, Gallipolis, Ohio; Esther Lam, Ontario College of Arts and Design, Markham, Ont., Canada; Patrick Neuber, Hammons School of Architecture-Drury University, Springfield, Mo.; Andrew Redington, University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh, Wis.; and Jason Thackeray, Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah, Ga.

Architectural Woodworking: John Daiek, Daiek Woodworks, Sterling Heights, Mich.; Wallace S. Fetzer, Fetzer Architectural Woodwork, Salt Lake City; Mark Peterson, On-site Woodwork Corp., Loves Park, Ill.; and Wayne Williams, Western Woodworks, Inc., Jackson, Wyo.

Cabinetry: Roger Heitzman, Heitzman Studios, Scotts Valley, Calif.; Shlomi Levi, Prestige Woodworking Design Inc., N. Miami Beach, Fla.; and Richard Gady, Rich Gady Woodworking, Lakewood, Colo.

Furniture: Alfred Sharp, Alfred Sharp-Cabinetmaker, Woodbury, Tenn.; Craig Thibodeau, CT Fine Furniture, San Diego; Chad Jensen, DENT, Bonita Springs, Fla.; Don Green, GreenTree Home, Delhi, N.Y.; Roger Heitzman, Heitzman Studios, Scotts Valley, Calif.; William Kimbell, Heritage Veneer Works, Loveland, Colo.; Kevin Irvin, Irvin Studio, Phoenix; Jamie Robertson, Jamie Robertson Designs, Concord, Mass.; Kent Townsend, Kent Townsend Fine Furniture, Salida, Colo.; Russell Garcia-Lechelt, Lechelt Woodworks,



A custom kitchen entry won the top cabinetry award for Carmen C. Vona.

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more Kitchen," by Carmen C. Vona, Carmana Designs Ltd., Philadelphia; for furniture, "Flower-Berry Table and Chairs," by Paul Schurch, Schurch Woodwork, Santa Barbara, Calif.; for specialty items, "Gunrunner," a vehicle sculpture, by Michael Jean Cooper, Sebastopol, Calif.; for store fixtures,



A diamond cabinet won an honorable mention in the furniture category for James Esworthy.

"Decorated Minimalism," by Thomas Reistetter, Silvestri Calif., Los Angeles; and for student design, "Don't Be Scared," by Jake Grieve, David Douglas High School, Portland, Ore.

Judges also selected 34 entrants for honorable mention awards. "The judges indicated that most of the honorable mentions awarded were worthy of being a category winner," says Wharton. "The depth of quality was outstanding."

In addition to category winners, special judges' awards may given in each category including those for marquetry application.

Impartial third-party experts from the woodworking media, education and design fields judged the competition. Judges included, Asa Christiana, editor, *Fine Woodworking*; Paul Winistorfer, department head, Department of Wood Sciences and Forest Products, Virginia Tech; and Ed Brewer of Louisville Lumber and Millwork, Louisville, and current president of the Architectural Woodwork Institute.

honorable mention winners/*continued*

Pacifica, Calif.; Trish McCulloch, Oakville, Ontario, Canada; Billy B. McLaughlin, McLaughlin Furniture and Cabinet Shop Inc., Tappahannock, Va.; Gregg Novosad, Old World Wood Masters, Palatine, Ill.; Paulus Wanrooij, Paulus Fine Furniture, Woolwich, Maine; James Esworthy, Red Star Furniture Design, Vancouver, B.C., Canada; Chuck Sharbaugh, Holly, Mich.; and Tom Christenson, T. A. Christenson Woodesign, Bakersfield, Calif.

Specialty Items: Roger Balcomb, Peterborough, England; Don Green, GreenTree Home, Delhi, N.Y.; Malcolm Tunncliffe, Lighting Designs by Malcolm Tunncliffe, Durham, N.C.; and Mitchell Scherer, Bloomington, Minn.

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This was the third year of the competition, and the number of entries increased dramatically, to 274.

"We are absolutely thrilled at the number of entries last year," says Wharton. "We sincerely appreciate the efforts and enthusiasm of our partner sponsors, *FDM* and *CabinetMaker* magazines, who certainly helped enhance participation and visibility."



This curly cherry bed by Trevor Doig received an honorable mention in the student design category.



An elaborate walk-in closet won an honorable mention in the cabinetry category for Shlomi Levi.

"The industry as a whole is well served by companies such as Veneer Tech stepping up to encourage and promote the craftsmanship and

artistry of woodworkers," says Brewer. "The competition fosters a positive environment for showcasing this artistry."

To see photos of all the 2007 entries, or for more information on the 2008 competition, see www.veneertech.com.