

## Factors to Consider When Judging Woodworking

### ✓ **Design**

Is this an original design, or constructed from published plans?

Does the piece follow generally accepted rules of form, balance, unity, symmetry and asymmetry?

Does the piece exhibit unity of design? That is to say, is the design style consistent throughout (e.g. Hepplewhite, Craftsman, Art Nouveau, and Modern) or is it a mixture of styles?

As a judge, do you really like the looks of the piece?

### ✓ **Construction**

Is the wood used in the piece commonly available, unique tropical or fruitwood, hand cut veneers? Is it highly figured, crazy grained, or whirly-burly?

If the piece is not constructed of hardwoods, is it an appropriate use of softwoods?

Is the piece constructed using commonly accepted woodworking methods?

Is the joinery appropriate to the application?

Machine cut or hand cut joints?

Will methods used allow the piece to last for generations?

### ✓ **Wood movement**

Is wood movement taken into account, particularly in table tops, doors, and wide, solid pieces?

Are the woods used in the pieces stable, or will there be considerable expansion and contraction?

### ✓ **Scope of Work**

Is this a significant piece of work done by an experienced craftsman or a “good first effort” from a beginner?

Is it overly complex or a simple piece well executed?

### ✓ **Appropriate use of metal hardware and fasteners**

These are gallery level pieces of fine woodworking. While metal hardware and fasteners are acceptable, their use should be appropriate, and the hardware should be of very high quality

### ✓ **Fit**

Is everything about this piece neat, tight, and well fitted?

Is the piece plumb, level, and square, as appropriate?

Do the legs of tables/chairs/casework all touch the floor?

Do the drawers fit well with appropriate “let go”?

✓ **Finish**

Is the piece free of all construction marks, lay out marks, construction or assembly notes, pencil marks, glue, etc?

Free of cross sanding, swirls, and sanded to an appropriate grit (probably a min of 150 or 220).

Is the piece well finished both above and below: the seen and unseen places?

Is the finish material appropriate for the piece, and is the piece finished thoroughly on all surfaces.

✓ **Creativity**

Is the piece creative?

Did the woodworker come up with a unique or highly unusual application to woodworking?

*The "X" factor. Is this piece made by a beginner, hobbyist, or seasoned pro? Does the exhibition have lots of people showing for the first time? It is most important as a judge to remember that woodworking pieces contain a lot of heart and soul. People showing their work are (generally speaking) putting long hours of work and emotional investment into their submission, and however good, none are perfect.*