

# The New York Times

## In the Old Navy Yard, Sales Replace Sails

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### Abstract (Document Summary)

1. Evan Hughes shows one of his signature pieces, an oval chest with 15 drawers (\$11,500). He is a furniture maker who, along with three assistants, creates modern pieces from cherry and other honey-toned woods. "We've done furniture for Brooklyn brownstones," he said. "Even though it's not Victorian, it complements the architecture." Also in his shop last week were glass-topped steel hall stands (\$480), chair-height stools (\$550) and a 40-inch-square cherry-topped dining table with steel legs (\$2,600). Building 3, (718) 643-0561.

7. Robert Martin, a furniture maker, sits at one of his steel-legged desks (\$2,500 to \$3,500, depending on the wood). He moved to the Navy Yard from Crown Heights eight years ago. "I like being in a community of a variety of craftsman," he said. "There are people with so many skills here." His simple modernist handcrafted desktops, chairs and dining table are made with American hardwoods like mesquite, chestnut and pecan. Chairs of steel and wood are \$600. Mr. Martin has a new mahogany garden line, including planters (\$1,200 to \$1,800), dining tables and chairs (\$1,400 to \$3,500). Building 280, (718) 797-1183.

### Full Text (784 words)

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THE Brooklyn Navy Yard may someday become Hollywood East, a sprawling complex of soundstages and editing suites. Alongside the production facilities under construction are varied businesses, including one holdout, a company that repairs Staten Island ferries. Of interest to home decorators is a colony of 30 upholsterers, woodworkers and metalworkers, who can do things like rescue an antique chair or build a steel staircase.

Finding them is not always easy. The 300-acre yard, between Williamsburg and Fort Greene, with an entrance at 63 Flushing Avenue, contains 40 randomly numbered buildings. There is no map, but directions and a directory of tenants with building and phone numbers are available from the management, (718) 907-5936. It is advisable to make appointments before venturing out. Free parking is available. The closest subway stop is York Street on the F train. Pack a lunch: restaurants are in short supply.

1. Evan Hughes shows one of his signature pieces, an oval chest with 15 drawers (\$11,500). He is a furniture maker who, along with three assistants, creates modern pieces from cherry and other honey-toned woods. "We've done furniture for Brooklyn brownstones," he said. "Even though it's not Victorian, it complements the architecture." Also in

his shop last week were glass-topped steel hall stands (\$480), chair-height stools (\$550) and a 40-inch-square cherry-topped dining table with steel legs (\$2,600). Building 3, (718) 643-0561.

2. The oval lamp of ash veneer on steel legs (\$800) is by Tom Edmonds, who makes wood furniture to the specifications of clients and designers. The lamps also come as triangles. Building 3, (718) 522-6445.

3. Susan Woods, a painter, has turned her attention to metal, much of it salvaged. Her room dividers are flattened bed and sofa springs. They can be made in any size and, like the one she's sitting by, mounted on wheels. A 9-by-3-foot divider costs \$2,500. Building 131, (718) 858-7006.

4. Jeff Kahn works at the forge in the yard at Ferra Designs. He and Robert Ferraroni are metalworkers, who will make anything, including staircases and sleek modern bed frames. They combine new technologies with traditional handiwork and techniques like blacksmithing. Their three-story shop is housed in a waterfront building, which offers views of the Williamsburg Bridge. They also have a gallery where they exhibit paintings and sculpture by Mr. Kahn, in addition to metal furniture by Mr. Ferraroni. Ferra Designs, Building 269, (718) 852-8629.

5. One of the best buys last week at Chase Office Supplies was a 1960's steel desk with a laminate top, (\$150). At Chase, it is catch as catch can, but the place is so big and so full of merchandise, both new and used, that it is easy to stumble on bargains, like a stash of used Steelcase and Herman Miller chairs selling for \$50 to \$60 each. There are also file cabinets of every description. Building 3, (718) 852-9400.

6. Massimo Dell'Aria, left, and Iouri Ivanov, right, own As It Was, which restores antique furniture. They also make new pieces, specializing in highly polished finishes. Last week, they made a side table covered with shagreen. Building 3, (718) 797-1941.

7. Robert Martin, a furniture maker, sits at one of his steel-legged desks (\$2,500 to \$3,500, depending on the wood). He moved to the Navy Yard from Crown Heights eight years ago. "I like being in a community of a variety of craftsman," he said. "There are people with so many skills here." His simple modernist handcrafted desktops, chairs and dining table are made with American hardwoods like mesquite, chestnut and pecan. Chairs of steel and wood are \$600. Mr. Martin has a new mahogany garden line, including planters (\$1,200 to \$1,800), dining tables and chairs (\$1,400 to \$3,500). Building 280, (718) 797-1183.

8. A chair by Nikolai Moderbacher began life as a spray cart and a wooden pallet (\$700). Mr. Moderbacher, who apprenticed with Robert Martin, fashions furniture out of found and recycled materials like forklift skids, rope and bungee cords. Building 280, in Robert Martin's shop, (917) 379-1424.

9. The four Duarte Brothers are master woodworkers who can carve fancy curtain rod finials or a back for a period chair. Last week, they were making a set of dining chairs with curved backs, each with an intricate inlaid design. All work is custom. Building 3, (718) 625-4554.

10. Whether you have a new piece of furniture or the stuffing is falling out of your favorite chair, Gianni Arcuri, looking up from his sewing machine, can reupholster it. He covers all styles from antique to modern and can order fabric, too. His prices are competitive; sofas start at \$800. Gianni Upholstery, Building 280, (718) 522-0242.

### **[Illustration]**

Photos (Photographs by Philip Greenberg for The New York Times)