

Creativity and sustainability meet in new local business

BY MELISSA MATTHEWSON

It's easy to get stuck in patterns. Modern-day conveniences allow us to shop where we want, buy whatever we want whenever we want it and, most of all, allow us to forget what goes into the making of a product. It's easy to forget the source of the many things we purchase at Costco or Best Buy and the negative consequences of those products on our ecosystems.

Though it's easy to shop this way, it's important to remember what goes into a product. It matters how something was produced. It matters that care, artistry, and a conservation ethic are inherent in the production of some things we purchase, including clothes, food and furniture. We live in an age of false abundance with many of our preferences directed toward affordability instead of quality handmade and environmentally sound products. I'm guilty of this myself, so it's always refreshing and exciting to discover someone with a passion for integrating artistry, conservation, and care into a business.

Shane Jimerfield of ShaneJ

Woodworks is a conservationist

who has spent the last 25 years working tirelessly for the environmental movement by protecting some of the forests and streams here in the Applegate. While working in the conservation field, Shane continued to pursue his passion and hobby of woodworking. He has now transitioned full time into channeling his creativity into finely crafted furniture and buildings using reclaimed materials and sustainable forest products.

Shane's business is unique in that he is passionate about using reclaimed materials from wood to hardware. He's interested in preserving the small-scale craft of woodworking that has virtually disappeared due to big business, global markets, and mass-produced commodities. Shane's products—dining tables, garden gates, furniture, or small houses—are produced with a fine attention to their environmental impact, so most of the materials are sourced locally, offering people an alternative to the Ikea model.

A prime example of Shane's



The Dragonfly Teahouse is made partially from reclaimed timber from the demolition of some Oregon mills.



Shane Jimerfield of ShaneJ Woodworks and his apprentice. Photo: Teena Jo Neal.

beautiful work is his Dragonfly Teahouse

(see photo). In the construction of the building, Shane used reclaimed timber from the demolition of the Klamath Falls and McCloud mills as well as sustainably harvested local timber.

He spent time looking for hardware on eBay as well as at local antique shops. He also worked with a local blacksmith at Siskiyou Forge to design hardware for the house. The Dragonfly Teahouse is currently for sale. Visit his website to take a virtual tour and see examples of his other work.

It's easy to get stuck in patterns, but

there is value in breaking those patterns to support a local, sustainable business that builds community, contributes to our local economy, and considers the environment in every aspect of its structure.

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