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**LEFT: Bowls, plates and kitchenware at Ashriver Woodworks.**

**BELOW: Ashriver Woodworks features epoxy resin furniture and other goods.**

Heather Douglas

greet us daily. Elk and deer also frequent the shop when it's not too loud," Bjorkman said.

While the family's decision to relocate to Astoria was easy, their original plan was not to open a shop. When the space opened up, however, it held great potential, but not without some pitfalls. "The space was left ravaged," Bjorkman said. "We were responsible to get it back to a presentable space," he added. After weeks of diligent work, the showroom opened last year.

Still, the family encountered challenges, working with a physical storefront in a digital era. "It's so easy today to just jump on your phone and snatch up whatever you want," Bjorkman said. "But for us, it's more about art, passion and quality. Our customers know that when they buy a piece from us, it won't need to be replaced in a year or so," he added.

The shop also operates Salty Siren Books, a shop bookstore and a community space. They have hosted local bands and authors, and plan for more events. In addition to wooden goods, the shop displays a handful of other Astoria makers' goods, from locally made guitars to sustainable soy candles.

Salty Siren Books, curated by Naomi, offers new and used titles. "We really just want to support the community in any way that we can. We decided collectively that we would do everything we could to work with the community and other artists to support them through our brick and mortar," Bjorkman said.

Ashriver's most popular items lately are their epoxy furniture pieces, some of which are reclaimed. Epoxy, a wood and plant based resin, gives new life to centuries old pieces.

Even though these makers have been woodworking since they were young, epoxy furniture was a new frontier. "Trial and error," Bjorkman said of the process, "after many attempts to work out a quality product, we feel like we have finally gotten there."

He believes the family skills especially shine when the shop is asked to create anything custom.

"You aren't just buying a thing. You are buying a piece of 'heart,' part of a soul, a moment of someone's life," Bjorkman said. "Most importantly, you are buying the maker more time to do something they love."

