



Artistic license transforms castoff doors into furniture collectibles

By Cindy Wolff

Posted August 20, 2009 at 12:04 a.m.



Nearly four months ago, artists, architects and others dashed around the Historic Marine Hospital Downtown, picking out doors that had been removed from old buildings locally.

Surplus doors receive a new life and will be auctioned Saturday at the Adapt-a-Door party and silent auction for Memphis Heritage. Some of the refurbished doors include (clockwise from top left) a desk by Will McGown, a bench by Lisa Jo Perdue, a chaise by Carol Oswald, a light by TRO Jung Brannen, a painted door by Jeanine Mah and coffee tables by Alissa Cerami



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Their mission: Make something with the door. Tear it apart, cut it, paint it, transform it into something that could be auctioned off. Seventy percent of the design had to be made with material from the door.

Of the 96 doors selected at that Door Dash in April, 60 have been returned for the first Adapt-a-Door party and silent auction Saturday at Howard Hall, headquarters of Memphis Heritage and AIA Memphis (the local chapter of The American Institute of Architects).

The minimum bid is \$100.

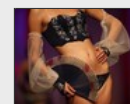
Memphis Heritage came up with the idea as a way to raise funds and make use of doors salvaged from historic homes or buildings.

"We were floored by the doors and what they made," said

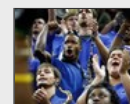
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June West, executive director of Memphis Heritage.

"Some of them are works of art and others are functional pieces of furniture. They are beautiful and amazing."

When fine art photographer Terry Woodard picked out her door, she saw a sign that said Ernestine & Hazel's hanging above

it. The one-time brothel inspired her door, on which is pictured a mysterious woman with a bare back.

Furniture artist and designer Will McGown spent a few days staring at his door. He knew it would eventually be furniture. He decided on a desk.

"A door is rectilinear in its shape, then I had all the rectangles in the panels to deal with," McGown said.

He softened the edges of the door to make them more organic. McGown used about 90 percent of the door for the project. About 40 percent was other material.

Five employees of TRO Jung Brannen, an architectural and design firm, spent two months changing their rather plain door into a 3-foot-tall light.

"The panels of the door offered the only unique design feature, so after much discussion, the idea of dividing the door into separate panels was found to be the best way to honor the form of what would forever be remembered by the team as Door Number Four," the group wrote on its blog about the light they call Stack.

The blog listed the team members' "day job" and "door job."

Brandon Herrington, who is the "marketing guy" for the architectural firm was the electrician and laborer for his "door job."

Skills: "Resident Home Depot expert, provides frivolous banter/interfering practical questions, such as: 'That's a great design, but how you going to change the light bulb?'"

Susan Golden, project manager and architect by day and project manager and process photographer by "door," said those practical questions helped the group make its light functional. It comes apart so the bulbs can be reached.

Other doors became a rocker, a flower box, a chaise, coffee tables and pieces of art.

Memphis Heritage sells doors throughout the year to people who are renovating homes, but it plans to make the Door Dash and party an annual fundraising event.

"We get so many doors that just sit there year after year," West said. "We like that these doors have a purpose again."

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Adapt-A-Door Party and Auction

When: 7:30-9:30 p.m. Saturday

Where: Howard Hall, 2282 Madison.

Cost: \$15 at door, \$17 if ordered online at memphisheritage.org

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Wind: S 10mph

Today
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56°

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02:00 AM



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Temp: 57°

Feels Like: 57°
Humidity: 90%
Precip: 1%

Sun
02:00 PM



Mostly Cloudy
Temp: 71°

Feels Like: 71°
Humidity: 61%
Precip: 2%

Mon
02:00 AM



Mostly Clear
Temp: 59°

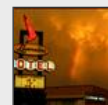
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Humidity: 86%
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Untitled
9/28/09
9:51 a.m.



Storm damage to the Kohl's on Germantown Parkway
7/30/09
10:59 p.m.



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