

Jim Oleson

1421 Gray Bluff Trail

Chapel Hill, NC 27517

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jro-furnituremaker.com

RESUME:

*Current: Full time designer and maker of furniture

*Retired from Duke University (2010) where he was a Professor of Radiation Oncology

*Prior positions include: Chair of the Radiation Oncology Department, The University of Arizona; Faculty member, Harvard University; Chair of Radiation Oncology, Health Care International, Glasgow, Scotland

*Research Physicist, Wesleyan University

Selected Professional Achievements:

*Listed in "Best Physicians in America" and "Best Doctors in North Carolina" for many years.

*Elected to Fellowship in the American College of Radiology and the American Society for Radiation Oncology

*Elected to Phi Beta Kappa, Alpha Omega Alpha, and Sigma Xi Honor Societies

*Over 120 publications and book chapters; 2 patents

Education:

* M..D., The University of Arizona

*Ph.D., Physics, The Johns Hopkins University

*B.A., Mathematics and Physics, St. Olaf College

BIO:

James Oleson has taken many art courses in drawing and oil painting through the years, and since 1980 he has focused on designing and making furniture as his art medium. He has made most of the furniture in his home.

In recent years he attended workshops relating to furniture design and making with Rosanne Somerson (Anderson Ranch), Teri Masaschi (Center for Furniture Craftsmanship), Jeff Jewitt (Marc Adams School of Woodworking), Michael Fortune (Anderson Ranch), Paul Schürch (Marc Adams School of Woodworking), and Brent Skidmore (Haystack Craft School).

An image of his mesquite buffet was published by Lark Press in "500 Cabinets". An image of one of his tables appeared on the cover of the January 2013 issue of the "International Journal of Radiation Oncology Biology Physics". An image of his "Bristlecone Pine Marquetry Cabinet" was published in the book "Rooted – Contemporary Studio Furniture" by Schiffer Books for The Furniture Society 2015.

His work is shown at the Frank Gallery, Cocoon Gallery, and NC Crafts Gallery .

Custom furniture design and making has been a very productive and full-time commitment since he retired as a Radiation Oncologist in 2010.

ARTIST STATEMENT:

I have been making furniture for about 35 years, one of my first hardwood projects having been a cherry blanket chest for my daughter that had nearly 100 dovetail joints that I cut with hand tools! The early projects were utilitarian but as I continued to design and make furniture my vision began to change and I imagined objects as composed of related shapes, lines, and curves in three dimensions –sculptural objects that embodied aesthetic ideas.

My work process is to imagine a shape, abstract or suggested by nature, and then make sketches with many variations in order to develop the design. After the basic design is established I go through a problem solving exercise involving selection of materials, defining structural and mechanical requirements, and satisfying functional needs. This problem solving process provides intellectual stimulation and great satisfaction.

I prefer a spare and elegant aesthetic that incorporates relatively few decorative accents. I use woods that have intrinsic beauty of color and grain to reinforce the design concept. With each piece I enjoy exploring the use of a new material, technique, or design, and this has enabled me to continually develop and expand my skills. I have been inspired by the work of George Nakashima, Jere Osgood, and Wendell Castle.

A successful work intrigues the eye, arouses curiosity, and draws one closer to the object. It also stimulates an irresistible urge in the viewer to touch the work.