

RIVERARTS

Area artists use wood to create new living spaces

BY GLENN GARSON

The River Arts District has several creative and experienced wood furniture artists.

If you want a customized living space these artists can work with you to achieve it.

Recently, a couple, who had just purchased a home in Asheville, dropped in to The Placeways River Gallery, with their interior designer to look at the unique custom built furniture that Jan Derr builds. Derr has been building custom-made furniture since 1997 when he transferred his wood design skills from building houses, to the art and craft of building furniture.

Jamie Addis, the manager of the Gallery says people come in who want a new cus-



A new way of seeing the River District

tom-built piece of furniture for their home or condo, but sometimes they have Jan do the entire interior design. Derr creates interiors that reflect the owner's taste and the house's architecture. Derr has been involved in the design of six restaurants in the Asheville area, and he ships his commission pieces around the country.

Their Gallery is located in the Phil Mechanic Studio Building at 109 Roberts street; Addis can be reached at (828) 253-6147.

The owners of the Odyssey Center for Ceramics wanted some beautiful pedestals built to hold their art so they contacted Joe Ransmeier who has over 30 years of experience working with wood. He has experience with a wide variety of custom-made Cabinets, Shelves, kitchen cabinets and storage units. Ransmeier's workshop is located on Roberts St. (828) 285-9105.

Each person's needs and living space are different. The wood artists in the district work with home and business owners to design and build the furniture, and interiors, that are uniquely their own.