

ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST

THE INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE OF DESIGN

MAY 2009

Great Design Issue

*Special
Section:*
**Kitchen
Design**

U.S. \$5.99/FOREIGN \$6.99

05 >



The Woodworker's Art

Maine's Center for Furniture Craftsmanship Encourages Imaginative Departures

By Wendy Moonan

PENOBSBOT BAY, HALFWAY UP THE coast of Maine, has an unspoiled natural beauty that has long attracted artists, including Andrew Wyeth, Robert Indiana and Neil Welliver.

The seaside village of Rockport has become a haven for a different kind of artistic activity: woodworking. Four miles inland, on a slope along the Oyster River, is the Center for Furniture Craftsmanship, an 11-acre campus of four red barnlike structures built in the Maine vernacular style.

"I wanted to create a national center to promote the realization that designing and making beautiful things is as important an expression of the spirit as fine art," says Peter Korn, the founder and executive director. It is *not* a trade school: "The idea is to help students discover they have imagination."

The product of a Quaker school and the University of Pennsylvania, Korn devised furniture-making courses in everything from basic woodworking to advanced carving, turning and veneering. "Craft is a way in which people explore for them-



David Haig's En sycamore Signa Rocker (left) and ed butternut bo low) by Al Stirt. artists teach at tl profit Center fo niture Craftsma in Rockport, M:

Executive direc ter Korn design interiors and lar ing, working wi chitect John Silv campus buildin low left), which workshop facili a library and a g



selves how to be a human being, create meaning in life," he says.

In 16 years Korn has welcomed people from all walks of life. Recipients include an emergency room doctor, a Coca-Cola executive, a former professional surfer and an antiques restorer. The nonprofit center offers several programs, from weeklong workshops for \$650, to an intensive nine-month curriculum, costing \$17,300.

Inside a naturally lighted v

continued