

**CHARLES FREEBORN**  
**DESIGN ~ BUILD**  
**WWW.CHARLESFREEBORN.COM**

Greetings,

The attached resume and illustrations is a representative cross-section of my 35 years of product and fine furniture design and construction. As you will see in the selected photos of my work, I have a wide range of design, fabrication, and business experience. I have produced custom furniture over many years for the most discerning clientele; my customers settle for nothing less than the best, so the bar is set quite high.

In 2015 I was the project director for a small firm in Wilsonville OR that converted new Airstream trailers into any number of mobile platforms for marketing, retail and display. In addition to the management duties I also worked side by side with our design team to re-imagine this classic American Icon.

In roughly the middle of my career, for family reasons, I took a breather from running my own business and accepted a position as plant manager for a small contract furnishings manufacturer. My responsibilities covered nearly all aspects of running the company except financial accounting and book keeping. During this time I was in charge of materials acquisition, order processing and coordination, production scheduling and personnel management. I was the primary contact person between the factory and our reps in the field, so I had first hand experience with the wholesale to retail process.

I have also worked with and for architectural , construction and display firms in a variety of positions including project management, design and detailing. Those projects ranged from trade show booths to large scale public school renovations to historic building restoration. It has been a varied and interesting journey.

My design process is based on real world practical experience. I often view projects through the lens of a maker. In short, what this means is that my designs work. They're buildable and efficient.

I have been influenced by the incredible diversity and excellence in fine arts, product design and woodworking that I've seen in my travels around the world. I draw inspiration from a wide range of sources and I have been very fortunate to have a prosperous career bridging so many and varied styles. I hope to be able to share that and more with your company.

Thank you for giving my application consideration. I look forward to speaking with you in person about this opportunity to bring my skills and experience to your company.

Sincerely,



Charles Freeborn

## **WORK EXPERIENCE**

2000-present Sole Proprietor of Charles Freeborn Design-Build.  
2004-present Sole Proprietor of Freeborn Guitars.  
2014 Project Director at Ultimate Airstreams in Wilsonville OR  
1999-2000 Project Manager at Preservation Arts, a historic building restoration contractor in Oakland, CA. Supervised projects with average budgets of \$1.5-3 million.  
1998-9 Project assistant manager at VBN Architects in Oakland, CA. Supervised projects with average construction budgets of \$.5 -1 mil.  
1997-8 Plant manager at MB Designs contract furniture Oakland, CA.  
1986-97 Sole proprietor Charles Freeborn Design-Build.  
1984-5 Wendell Castle Workshop. The WCW was the premier school at that time for fine furniture design and construction.  
1981-1984 Self employed as free-lance cabinetmaker and finish carpenter.  
1980-1982 Finish carpenter & cabinet maker for Hopper Construction Company in Oakland, CA.

## **RELATED SKILLS**

MIG, TIG and Gas welding  
Steel, Aluminum and composites fabrication

## **DIGITAL SKILLS**

Microsoft Office  
Form •Z 3D Modeling Software  
PowerCadd 2D Drafting Software  
InDesign Layout Software  
Affinity Publisher Layout Software  
AutoCad v14

CAD to CAM automated production using CNC routers and laser cutters

Introduction to RealTrac ERP management software

## GALLERY OF WORK



### **MID-CENTURY-INSPIRED DINING TABLE AND CHAIRS ~ 1996**

**WENGE, ALUMINUM AND BLONDE SNAKEWOOD VENEER. THE BOLTS THROUGH THE ALUMINUM APRONS ARE FUNCTIONAL. THE CURVED ALUMINUM CHAIR BACKS ARE ALSO HELD IN PLACE BY FLUSH SET STEEL ALLEN HEAD MACHINE BOLTS.**



**CHAIRS IN WENGE, ALUMINUM AND LEATHER**



**DEMI-LUNE SIDE TABLE DETAIL**



**SIDEBOARD IN WENGE, ALUMINUM & BLONDE SNAKEWOOD VENEER**

# CUSTOM 27' AIRSTREAM WINE TASTING LOUNGE





**CONTEMPORARY ASIAN / CRAFTSMAN BENCH ~ 1984**

**EBONIZED MAHOGANY, BIRDSEYE MAPLE & EBONY. THE 3 STRUCTURAL STRETCHERS USE “TUSKED TENONS” ALLOWING THE BENCH TO BREAK DOWN IN A MATTER OF MINUTES AND PACK INTO A CARTON THE SIZE OF A LARGE GUITAR CASE.**



**CORDIAL CABINET ~ 1984**

**WALNUT SOLID AND VENEER. EBONY TRIM AND APPOINTMENTS.**

**THE CLAMSHELL HALVES ROTATE ON BEARINGS AT THE TOP AND BOTTOM. PANELS ARE COOPERED SOLID WOOD. CURVED FRAME RAILS ARE LAMINATED. EBONY TRIM IS BOTH SOLID COOPERED SECTIONS AND LAMINATED.**







### **COFFEE TABLE ~ 2016**

**IN FORGED STEEL & RADIAL SAWN EUCALYPTUS BURL.  
THE WOOD FOR THIS TABLE TOP WAS SOURCED FROM A TREE ON THE CLIENT'S VINEYARD.  
THE SOLID FORGED STEEL BASE WAS DESIGNED BY ME AND MADE BY JEFFERSON MACK  
STEEL WORKS IN SF.**



**DESK ~ 2015**

**QUILTED WESTERN MAPLE VENEER, SOLID, BURL AND EBONY**

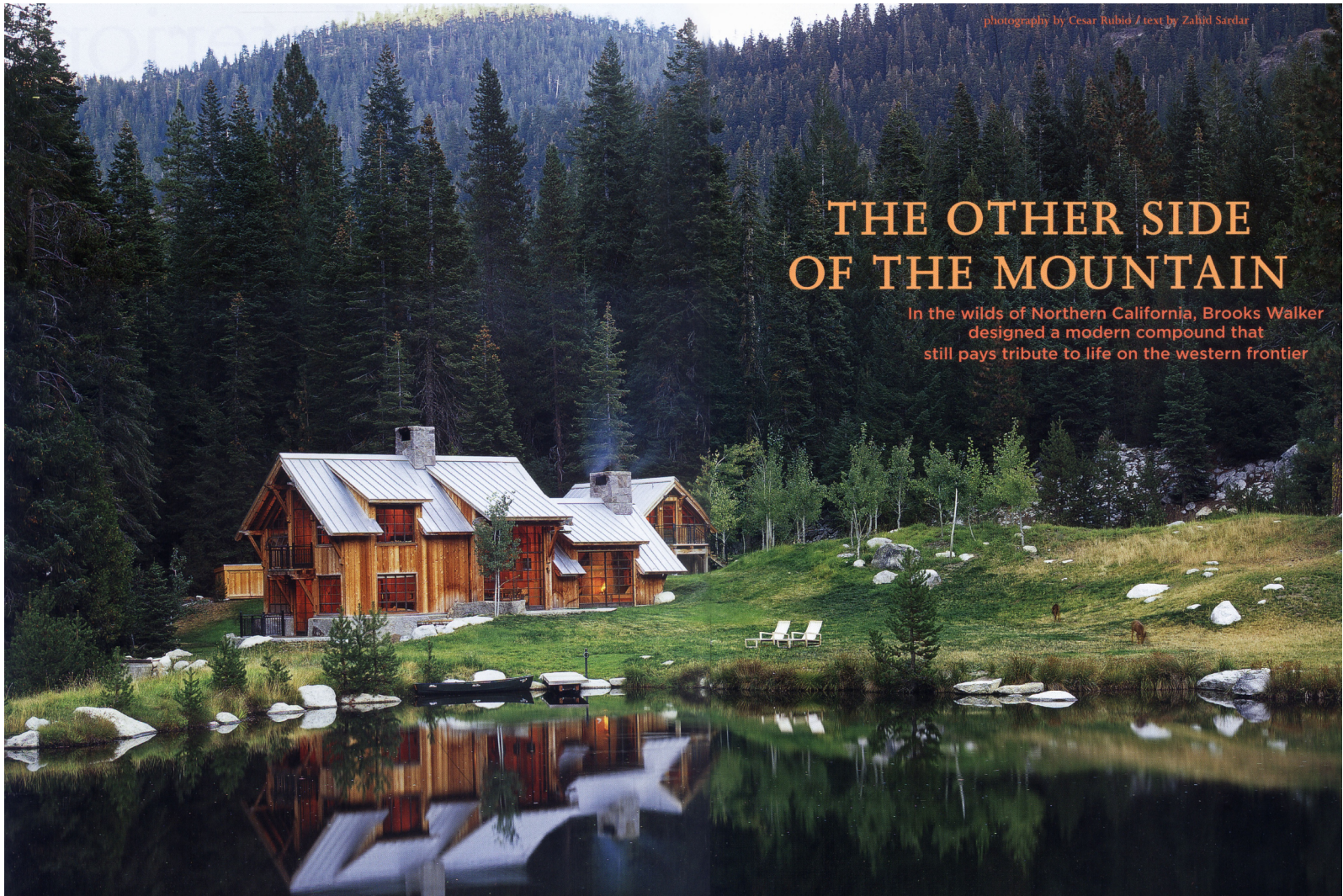


**“FLIPPER” DOORS ON CENTER COMPUTER SECTION. KEYBOARD ROLL OUT, DRAWERS BELOW AND SHELVING ABOVE.**

photography by Cesar Rubid / text by Zaliid Sardar

# THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN

In the wilds of Northern California, Brooks Walker  
designed a modern compound that  
still pays tribute to life on the western frontier



## **WILDERNESS CABIN COMMISSION ~ 2005~**

**IN 2005 I WAS FORTUNATE TO SECURE A STRING OF COMMISSIONS THAT WERE IN CONCERT WITH THE SAN FRANCISCO ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE OF WALKER / WARNER. THE FIRST OF THESE COMMISSIONS WAS FEATURED IN THE MAGAZINE "WESTERN INTERIORS AND DESIGN". THE SITE IS IN A REMOTE PORTION OF THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS, 20 MILES FROM THE NEAREST PAVED ROAD AND COMPLETELY "OFF GRID". TO COMPLEMENT THE RUSTIC SURROUNDINGS AND ARCHITECTURE, I SOURCED RECLAIMED OAK BARN TIMBERS FOR ALL OF THE PIECES. I'M INCLUDING THE PAGES OF THAT ARTICLE THAT SHOW MY WORK. I BUILT ALL OF THE FREESTANDING FURNITURE IN THE CABIN.**



**above:** The house's Shaker-like simplicity is most evident in the dining room, which sits beneath a sleeping loft. Antique French hemp covers the banquette's cushions and pillows, while the dishes are from Heath Ceramics. The table and chairs were made from reclaimed white-oak barn beams and rafters. **opposite:** The dining room's window wall provides uninterrupted views of an eight-thousand-foot peak nearby.





**top left and left:** "We kept the master bath small and efficient," says Walker. The tub and sink were carved from granite. The faucets and towel ring are from Rocky Mountain Hardware. **above:** Sconces in the master bedroom "evoke old lanterns that were carried by miners," says Walker. **opposite:** Steel doors and windows prevent bears from gaining access during winter, while thick cedar siding deters woodpeckers. Standing-seam metal roofs mimic the granite slopes surrounding the house.

from Provence was used to cover seat cushions in the dining room, and textured lambswool and cotton blends were sewn up as cushion and pillow covers in the living room. Larger cushions double as mattresses when the house is full of children.

Fresh water and electrical power are in short supply in the Northern California wilderness, even though solar panels and a power generator make the house somewhat self-sufficient. A woodstove and a stone fireplace provide the only heat. Propane lights and two propane refrigerators conserve energy that's better used for doing the dishes. Keeping that in mind, Stone introduced hemp napkins embroidered with numbers for guests to reuse during their stay.

With furniture designer Charles Freeborn, Stone created beds, chairs and the house's few pieces of freestanding furniture from reclaimed wood. "We didn't want to focus on a particular era—no peeled-log, Adirondack or Mission style," she says. "We wanted the furniture to be sturdy and functional without being clumsy." Forged bronze faucets as well as lighting, door hardware and handrails by Bay Area metalsmith Jefferson Mack are some of the fittings. "His pins and latches are consciously delightful things," says Walker.

"You don't just throw open a door or a window," he continues. "It's a ritual, like leaving a tent to gather wood. In the morning you get the coffee going at first light. There's no sun and then it hovers over the mountains like a candle and all of a sudden rises to light up the sky." +



## **HUNTING LODGE COMMISSION ~ 2012**

**ANOTHER WALKER / WARNER PROJECT WAS A PRIVATE HUNTING LODGE IN THE SACRAMENTO VALLEY. FOR THESE PIECES I SOURCED OREGON WALNUT IN LOG FORM AND HAD IT CUSTOM MILLED TO FIT THE BILL FOR THE FURNITURE INVENTORY. ALL TOLD I DESIGNED AND PRODUCED A DINING SET FOR 16, A PAIR OF SQUARE GAME TABLES WITH 4 ARM CHAIRS EACH, 10 BEDROOMS WORTH OF BEDS, NIGHTSTANDS AND DRESSERS, AND AN ASSORTMENT OF COFFEE TABLES, CONSOLE TABLES AND BENCHES.**



### **HUNTING LODGE DINING SET**

**INCLUDED SOLID TWO-PIECE BOOK-MATCHED TABLE & 10 CHAIRS IN SOLID OREGON WALNUT.**



**HUNTING LODGE BREEZEWAY TABLE**

IN OREGON ASH.



## **HUNTING LODGE HEADBOARD**

**BOOK-MATCHED OREGON WALNUT WITH DOVETAIL SEPARATOR / BUTTERFLIES.**



**ROLLING TABLE ~ 1993**

**FOUND OBJECT TRICYCLE, WELDED STEEL POST & STAINED PLYWOOD TOP.  
SOMETIMES YOU JUST WANT TO HAVE A LITTLE FUN...**

I nearly forgot to mention Guitars. This has been an interesting journey. I was a bit surprised to find how conservative the acoustic guitar market is. Players who gladly embrace innovation in their electric guitars wouldn't give this model of mine a second glance. Little did they know they're extremely comfortable, sound great and are technically very similar in construction to the traditional instruments already in their collections. Go figure.

