



THE WORKS OF
STEVE ROPER

TABLE OF CONTENTS

NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR	1
STEVE ROPER	2
SYNAGOGUE	3
PHOENIX ZOO WATER WHEEL	6
AFRICANO COLLECTION	7
FIREPLACES	11
DISTRESSED ITALIAN INTERIOR	13
ANIMAL ENCLOSURES	15
LIVING ROOM SET	17
SMALL PIECES	21
COMPLETE KITCHEN	25
WELDED FURNITURE	27
HOME FURNITURE	30
BEDROOMS	31
TABLES	33
FAMILY URN	37
HOME THEATRE	38
ELLINGTON HOME	39
SCARINGE FAMILY HOME INSTALLATIONS	40
BAUGHAN HOME	41

NOTE FROM AUTHOR

THE WORKS OF STEVE ROPER RANGE ACROSS MANY DIFFERENT DOMAINS AND HAVE SERVED MANY DIFFERENT PURPOSES. THIS BOOK HOPES TO SHARE A FEW EXAMPLES OF THE WAY THAT HE SOLVES PROBLEMS BEAUTIFULLY AND SENSIBLY.

THOSE WHO ARE FAMILIAR WITH HIS WORKS KNOW THAT HIS MASTERY IN CREATION ACROSS DIFFERENT DOMAINS IS A RESULT OF HIS EXCEEDINGLY HIGH EXPECTATIONS OF HIS OWN WORK, HIS TENACITY TO LEARN, AND HIS DESIRE TO FULFILL CLIENT NEEDS. THESE TRAITS ARE EVIDENT NOT ONLY IN ROPER'S WORKS, BUT IN HIS MANY OTHER INTERESTS, AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, IN THE PERSON THAT HE IS.

I HOPE YOU ENJOY. THANKS, STEVE.



STEVE ROPER

STEVE WAS BORN IN RED BUD, ILLINOIS TO MARY F. ROPER AND OMAR MARTIN ROPER, WITH FOUR SIBLINGS, PAT, NANCY, LINDA, AND BRUCE. HE LATER HAD THREE CHILDREN, IAN, SARAH, AND AVA.

HE TAUGHT HIMSELF THE SKILLS FOR A PLETHORA OF JOBS IN MANY DIFFERENT PLACES OVER THE COURSE OF HIS CAREER. HIS LEARNINGS CULMINATED IN MANY DIFFERENT PROJECTS, FROM BUILDING HOUSES FROM THE GROUND UP, TO ASSISTING WITH ART INSTALLATIONS. ONLY A SMALL FRACTION OF HIS WORK IS SHOWN HERE.



ROPER AND DAN MILLER CONSTRUCTING A
RAMADA AT THE PHOENIX ZOO.

SYNAGOGUE

IN 1992, STEVE TRANSFORMED THE MOSES MONTEFIORE SYNAGOGUE.



STEVE WAS GIVEN FULL CREATIVE FREEDOM TO COMPLETE THE SYNAGOGUE. THE BACK WALL WAS COMPLETELY REPLACED WITH STUCCO, WITH 6-INCH STEPS CONSTRUCTED TO CARRY OUT THE ANGLE OF THE WALL. THE ARK FOR HOLDING THE SCROLLS WAS CONSTRUCTED FROM MAHOGANY AND WAS BACKLIT. THE LECTURNS, STANDS, AND PODIUMS WERE CONSTRUCTED FROM MAHOGANY AND MARBLE, AND THE CHAIRS FEATURED ULTRASUEDE, WHICH HE UPHOLSTERED. RABBIS WOULD CEREMONIALLY MOVE THE SCROLLS FROM THE ARK TO THE LECTURNS AND READ FROM THEM. TO ALLOW RABBIS TO TURN TO FACE EITHER THE CONGREGATION OR THE ARK, ROPER CONSTRUCTED A HEAVY-DUTY TURN TABLE ON THE BOTTOM OF THE LECTURNS.



A PICTURE OF THE DRAB INTERIOR
BEFORE CONSTRUCTION.



THE FINISHED STAINED GLASS
AND MAHOGANY STAR OF DAVID.



STAND FOR SCROLL
DISPLAY.



STEVE CONSTRUCTED TWO LECTURNS. THEY WERE WIRED
FOR MICROPHONES AND THE LARGER COULD SWIVEL.



SYNAGOGUE, WORKS IN PROGRESS



CLAMPING THE STAR TO A PATTERN PIECE.



THE PODIUM AND STAR IN THE SHOP. RAW WOOD STACKED ON THE FLOOR.



AN EXAMPLE OF THE JOINERY.

PHOENIX ZOO WATER WHEEL

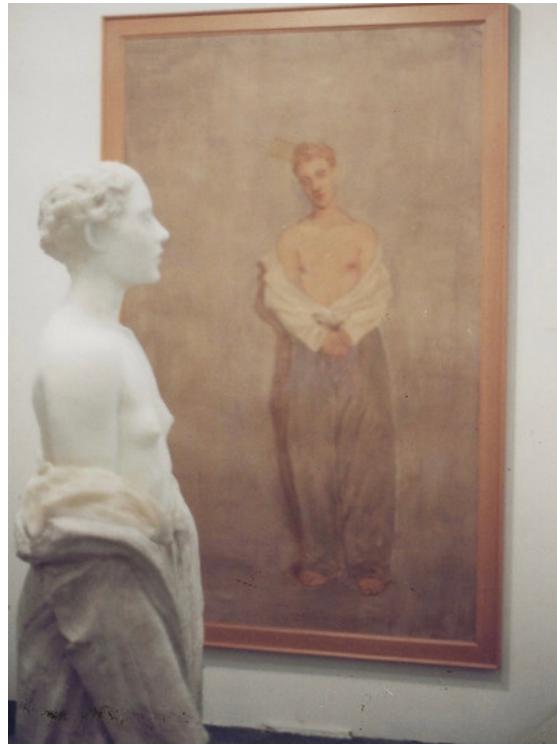
AMONG MANY OTHER PROJECTS AT THE PHOENIX ZOO CIRCA 1978, STEVE COMPLETED A FULLY-FUNCTIONING WATER WHEEL, CONSTRUCTED FROM STAINED POPLAR AND COTTONWOOD. IT WAS ADJACENT TO THE MILLHOUSE SNACK BAR. ELEMENTS WERE CONSTRUCTED IN THE SHOP BUT HAD TO BE ASSEMBLED OVER THE WATER.



ONE OF STEVE'S FRIENDS, A BLACK SWAN, PICTURED IN THE BACK.

AFRICANO COLLECTION

IN NORMAL, STEVE ASSISTED NICHOLAS AFRICANO, A LOCAL ARTIST OF INTERNATIONAL NOTORIETY, TO HELP AFRICANO CREATE NUMEROUS PIECES FOR BOTH EXHIBITION AND HOME. STEVE MADE MANY WORKS TO SUPPORT THE ARTWORK AND FOR THE AID OF ITS CREATION.



STEVE DID THE ROUGH CARVING AND GLASS FITTING FOR THIS PIECE
DISPLAYED AT THE NAVY PIER ART EXPO.

A LARGE STONE FIGURE



TO BE ABLE TO MEASURE THE DEPTH OF THE CUT TO RECREATE THE SHAPE OF THE FIGURE DESIGNED IN WAX BY AFRICANO, STEVE CONSTRUCTED 2 FRAMES AND THEN STRUNG STRING THROUGH THEM. DUE TO THE LARGE SIZE AND WEIGHT OF THE BLOCK TO BE CARVED, ROPER HAD A ROLLING GANTRY CONSTRUCTED TO BE ABLE TO MOVE IT INTO PLACE, AND AFTER CARVING AND COMPLETION OF THE FIGURE, HE WAS TASKED WITH CRATING THE PIECE FOR TRANSPORT TO SEATTLE.

MIRRORS

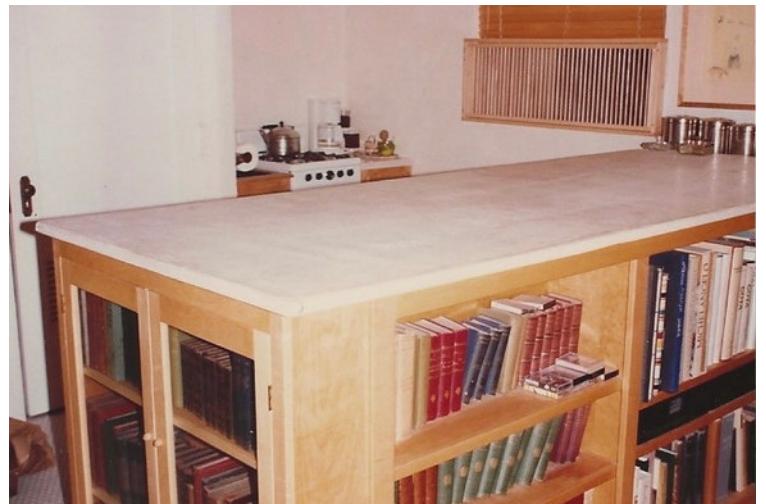
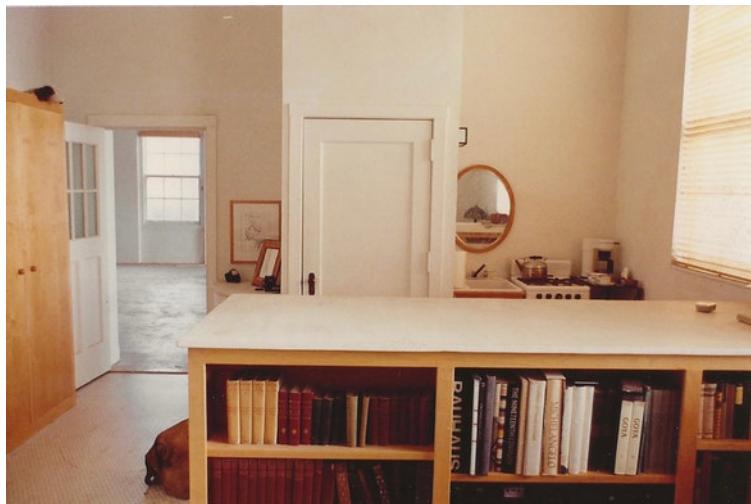
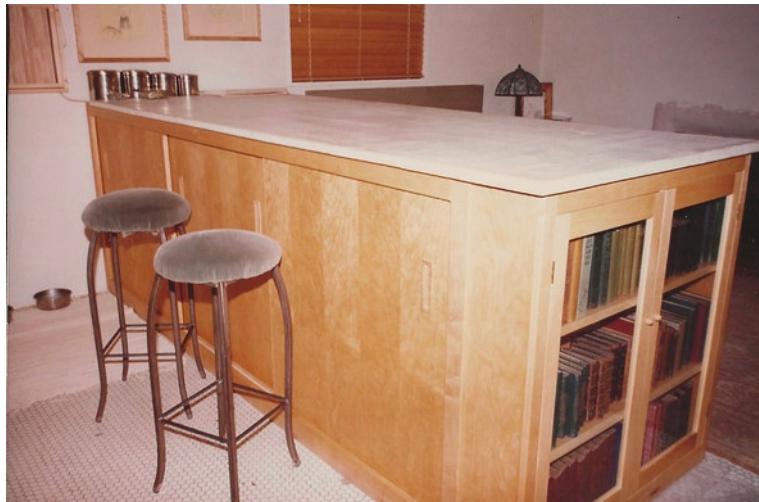
A SET OF PAINTED POPLAR AND BIRCH PLYWOOD BATHROOM MIRRORS MADE FOR THE AFRICANO PROPERTY.



THE MIRRORS, WHICH MOVED UP AND DOWN TO FUNCTION AS MEDICINE CABINETS, USED SASH WEIGHTS TO HOLD THEMSELVES IN THE AIR AND ALLOW FOR EASY USE.

MAPLE BOOKSHELVES

A SET OF MAPLE BOOKSHELVES WITH CAST CONCRETE TOPS ALONG WITH WELDED STOOLS. STEVE CONSTRUCTED MANY FRAMES OF VARYING SIZES FOR BOTH THE HOME AND FOR EXHIBITION.



FIREPLACES

THE FIREPLACES STEVE CREATED DEMONSTRATED HIS CREATIVITY IN ACHIEVING A DESIRED DESIGN. FOR EXAMPLE, FOR THE WELDED FIREPLACE ON PAGE 12, HE BOUGHT PLASTIC FLOWERS, AND HAD THEM CAST INTO BRONZE. HE THEN WELDED THE FRAMES FOR THE FIREPLACE AND WELDED THE COMPONENTS TOGETHER. MANY OF STEVE'S PROJECTS ARE FORMED OF INTERESTING CONSTRUCTION.



A PAINTED POPLAR FIREPLACE
CONSTRUCTED FOR STEVE'S MOTHER, MARY
ROPER.



A FIREPLACE MADE FROM CAST CONCRETE
WITH STEEL RODS CONSTRUCTED FOR CHAD
ELLINGTON.



CARVED OAK MANTEL WORK
DONE IN YUMA, ARIZONA.



NON-FLAMMABLE STUCCO WALL DONE FOR
ROPER'S OWN WOOD STOVE FIREPLACE.



A WELDED FIREPLACE WITH
TEMPERED GLASS PANELS.



STONE WORK AND WALNUT
MANTEL.

DISTRESSED, ITALIAN INTERIOR

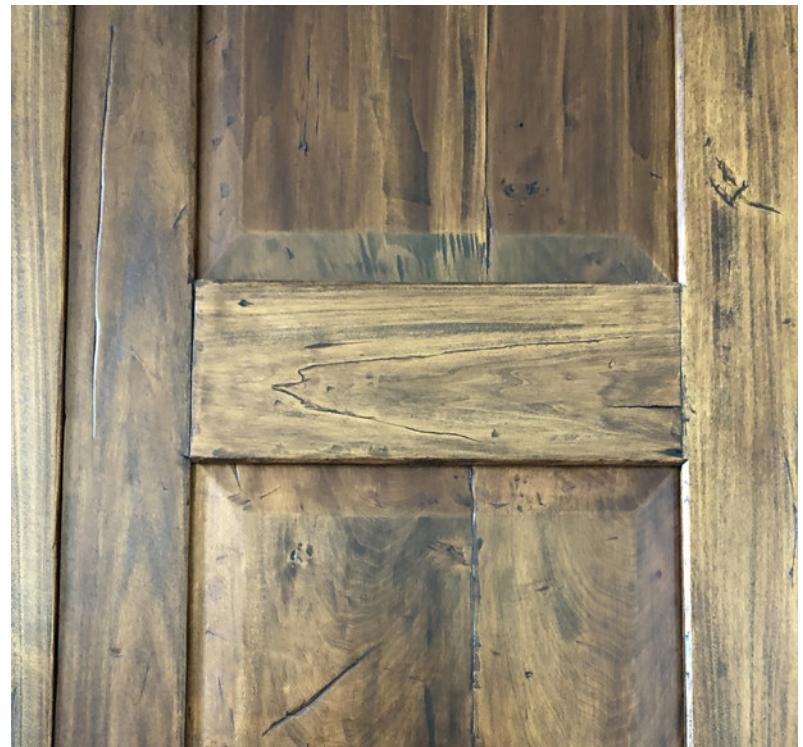
IN 2004, STEVE WAS COMMISSIONED TO BUILD A FIREPLACE AND DOORS FROM POPLAR, AS IF THEY WERE FOUND ITEMS, STORED IN A BARN FOR A FEW HUNDRED YEARS.



THE BEGINNINGS OF A FIREPLACE FOR
THE INTERIOR.



STEVE DESIGNED ALL THE PIECES FOR THE SET, INCLUDING THE DOORS HERE. HE DISTRESSED THE POPLAR WITH CHISELS AND HAMMERS TO ACHIEVE THE DESIRED AESTHETIC.



ANIMAL ENCLOSURES

STEVE'S INTEREST IN ANIMALS, RANGING FROM BOWER BIRDS TO GREEN TREE PYTHONS, IS ALSO REFLECTED IN HIS WORKS. ROPER HAS CONSTRUCTED VARIOUS WORKS FOR ANIMALS, FOR MANY UNIQUE AND SPECIFIC PURPOSES, FROM RAISING BIRDS TO ENCLOSING A COUGAR.



A STEEL CAGE FOR A MOLUCCAN
COCKATOO.



STEVE CONSTRUCTING THE ENCLOSURE
FROM THE INSIDE.

CHERRY, GOULDIAN FINCH ENCLOSURE

THIS ENCLOSURE WAS FOR GOULDIAN FINCHES IN AN ORTHODONTIST OFFICE. ROPER USED HIGH TENSION PIANO WIRE AND CHERRY.



LIVING ROOM SET

A LIVING ROOM SET CONSTRUCTED FOR CYNTHIA AFRICANO IN 1985, MADE FROM BOLIVIAN ROSEWOOD, EBONY, MAPLE, AND MARBLE.



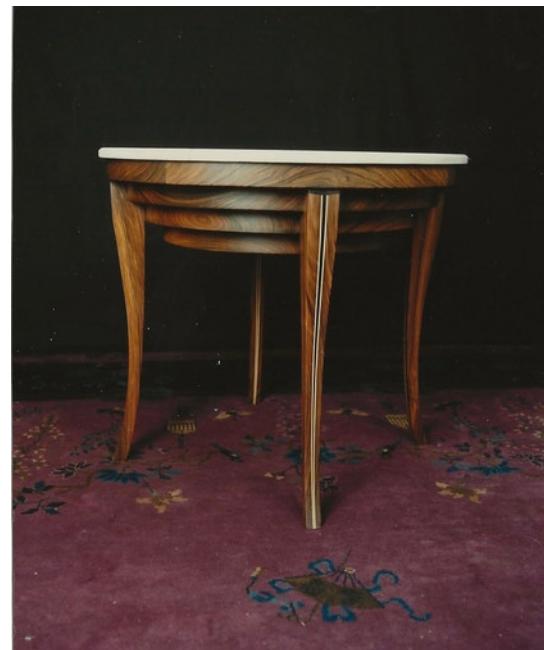




273 JOINTS WERE FASHIONED TO
CONSTRUCT EACH CHAIR FRAME.



UPHOLSTERED CHAIR.



FINISHED TABLE.



A MEDIA CONSOLE WITH TAMBOUR DOORS MADE FROM SOLID CHERRY.

SMALL PIECES

3 BEAUTIFUL, SMALL
PIECES CONSTRUCTED
FOR HOLDING NATURE.



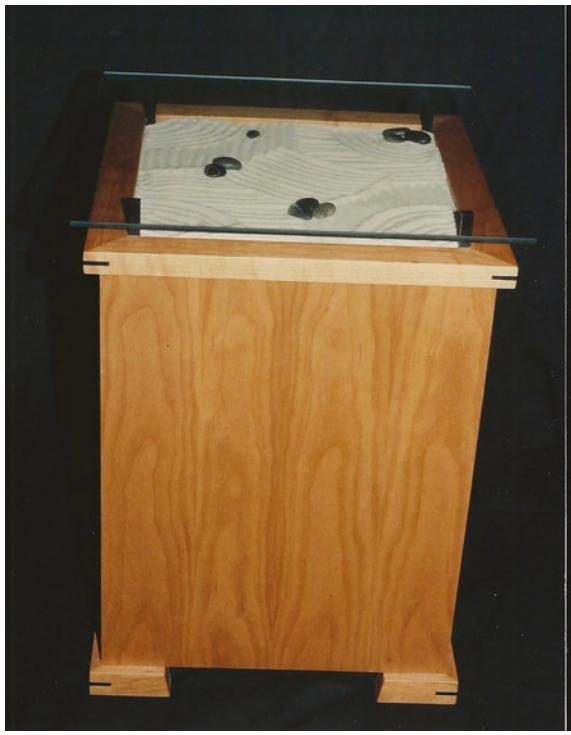
A TURNED BUD VASE FROM
COCOBOLO.



A DESERT IRONWOOD BOWL.



A ROSEWOOD BUD VASE.



A ZEN GARDEN TABLE, MADE FROM CHERRY PLYWOOD, SOLID CHERRY, AND EBONY DETAIL. MADE FOR STEVE'S SISTER, NANCY.



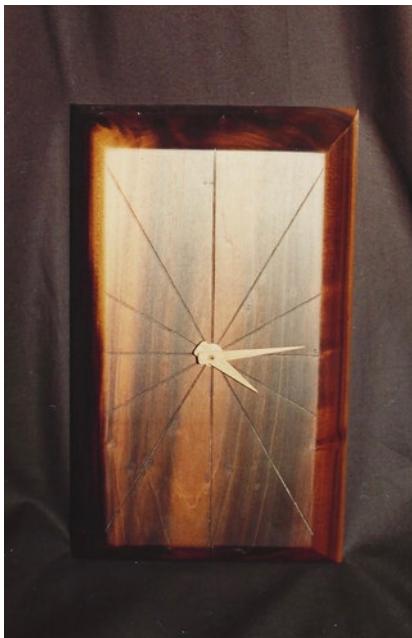
A WALNUT AND VERMILION SNAKE WITH AN EBONY TONGUE AND BEVELED GLASS TO FIT IN THE CORNER OF A ROOM. MADE TO HOLD A PIECE OF NATIVE AMERICAN POTTERY.



A MODERN LAMP MADE FROM BIRDSEYE
MAPLE, GLASS, EBONY, AND VERMILION.



SWIVELING READING LAMP FROM MAPLE,
CHERRY, AND WALNUT.



A CLOCK MADE OF
POPLAR WITH
MAPLE HANDS.



DISPLAY BOX MADE FROM HIGHLY FIGURED
MAPLE AND EBONY.



JEWELERY BOX

CONSTRUCTED BY ROPER IN 1989.
DESIGNED WITH A TAMBOUR
NECKLACE DRAWER TO ROLL OUT
FROM BEHIND THE DRAWERS. MADE
OF HIGHLY-FIGURED MAPLE AND
EBONY WITH A BLACK VELVET
INTERIOR.

COMPLETE KITCHEN

IN 1992, STEVE CONSTRUCTED A KITCHEN FOR THE SATKAMP FAMILY. HIS CONSTRUCTION INCLUDED A CUSTOM-MADE COPPER SINK, CABINETS OF PAINTED POPLAR AND BALTIC BIRCH, A MAPLE BUTCHER BLOCK COUNTERTOP, AND HAND-CUT LINOLEUM TILES.





WELDED FURNITURE

STEVE COMPLETED A NUMBER OF WELDED PIECES OVER HIS CAREER, INCLUDING THE TABLES, CHAIRS, AND DAYBEDS PICTURED HERE. THE TABLE WAS CONSTRUCTED OF WELDED, DECO-STYLE RODS, AND A MARBLE SURFACE. STEVE KEPT THE TABLE ON THE RIGHT FOR HIMSELF.



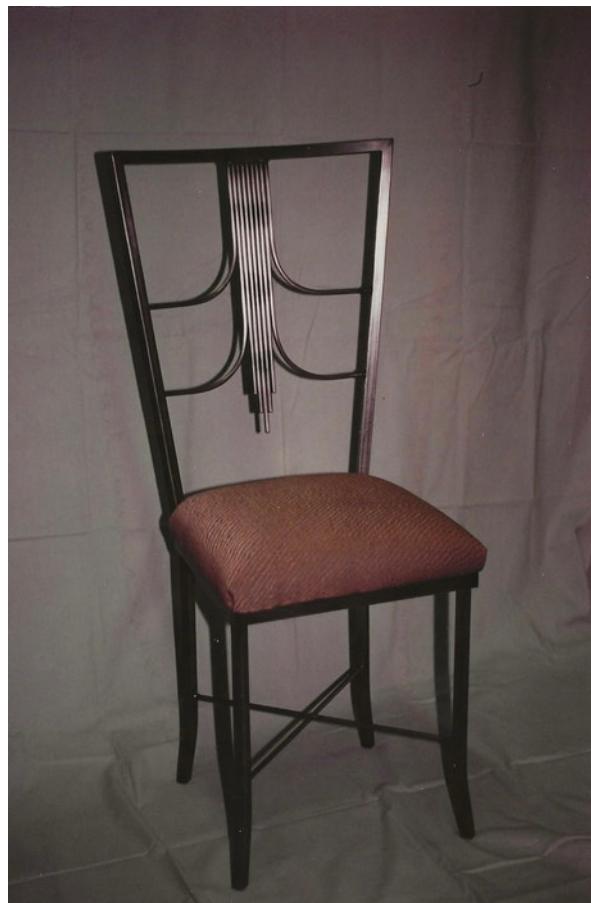


STEVE MADE TWO DAYBEDS, ONE BUILT FOR AN INTERIOR DESIGNER'S HOME AND THE OTHER BUILT FOR AFRICANO. THE FRONT AND BACK PICTURED HERE DEMONSTRATE THE SENSIBLE AND AESTHETIC DESIGN OF THE WELDED PIECES.

WELDED CHAIRS



WELDED CHAIRS PUT TOGETHER IN A
DECO STYLE AND A TABLE WITH A
MARBLE TOP. A SET MADE FOR THE
POLLOCKS.



EACH CHAIR HAD A DECO BACK.

HOME FURNITURE



SOLID CHERRY
CHEST OF DRAWERS
FOR ROPER'S
PERSONAL USE.



MAHOGANY CHEST OF
DRAWERS MADE IN A
SET ON PAGE 32.



STEVE'S FIRST
COMMISSIONED
PIECE, A MAPLE AND
GLASS DISPLAY
CABINET FOR THE
ZUBER FAMILY.

BEDROOMS

STEVE WAS COMMISSIONED TO CREATE FURNISHING FOR THE BEDROOM OF CINDY AFRICANO. BASE CABINETS EXTENDED ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BED, AND A BOOKSHELF STOOD ATOP THEM. ROPER USED SOLID MAHOGANY, EBONY, AND CURLY MAPLE. SHOWN ON THE RIGHT IS ONE SOLID CONSTRUCTION OF A SET OF DRAWERS WITH CABINETS ABOVE.

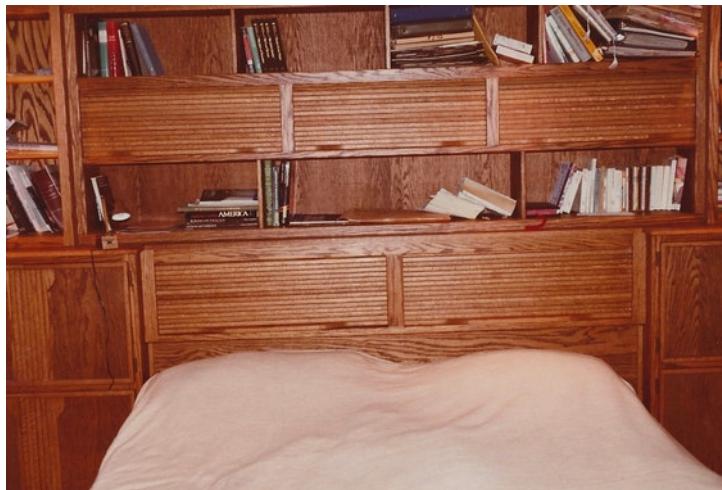




ON THE LEFT,
STAINED GLASS
PANELS PAIRED WITH
A STAINED OAK
TAMBOUR BED FRAME
AND BOOKSHELVES.



ON THE RIGHT, A
SOLID MAHOGANY
BEDFRAME AND
BOOKSHELF.



TABLES

PICTURED HERE, STEVE CONSTRUCTED A DINETTE TABLE, MADE FROM PERSIMMON AND EBONY, WITH WOODEN TUBES TO CONNECT THE LEGS. ROPER CUT DOWN AND MILLED THE PERSIMMON FROM A TREE ON THE AFRICANO RESIDENCE.



ON THE RIGHT: IN BLOOMINGTON, ROPER WAS COMMISSIONED FOR A SET OF ENTRYWAY TABLES MADE OF MAHOGANY, WITH CURLY BIRDSEYE AND EBONY DOORFRONTS.

BELOW: A SET OF NIGHTSTANDS MADE OF BIRDSEYE MAPLE, EBONY, AND A QUILTED MAHOGANY INLAY.



MAHOGANY HIGH TABLE



A DELICATE BUT STURDY SIDE TABLE FROM QUILTED MAHOGANY, EBONY, AND BIRDSEYE MAPLE. THE MAHOGANY WAS SOURCED FROM MARTIN GUITAR COMPANY.

CHESS TABLE

COMMISSIONED FOR A
COLLEAGUE AT THE PHOENIX
ZOO, STEVE CONSTRUCTED A
CHESS TABLE MADE OF OAK,
EBONY, AND ANGICO.



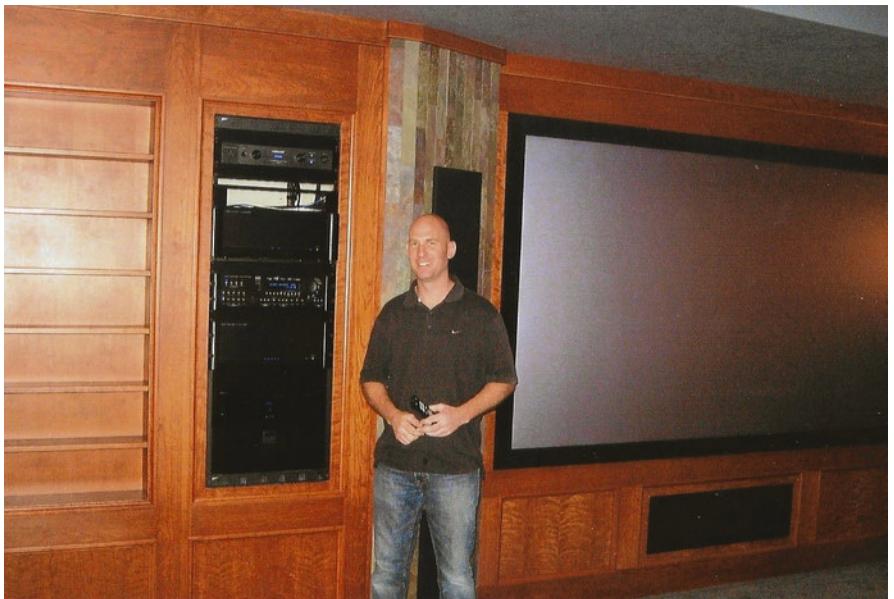
FAMILY URN

STEVE CREATED AN URN FOR HIS MOTHER, MARY F. ROPER (2016) AND HIS FATHER, OMAR MARTIN ROPER (2002). QUILTED MAPLE AND EBONY PICTURED HERE.



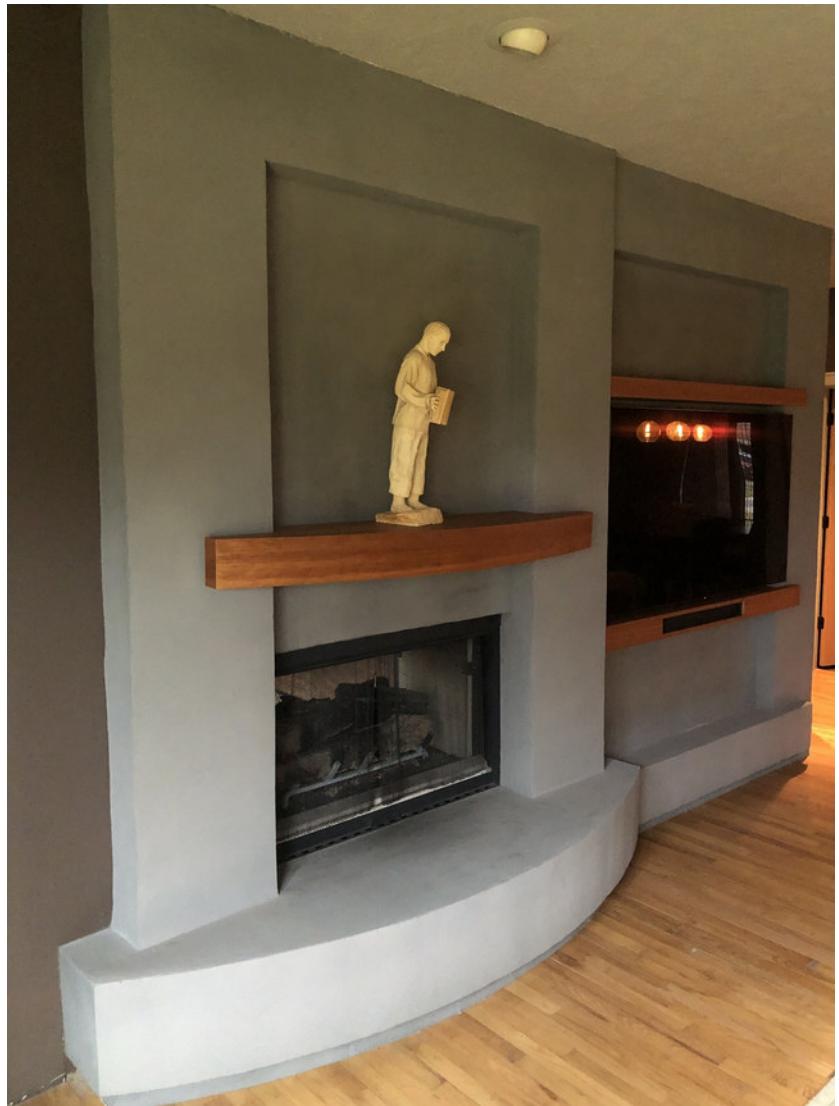
HOME THEATRE

THE THEATRE INCLUDED A LARGE PROJECTOR, SCREEN, AND COMPARTMENTS FOR ELECTRONICS. STEVE AND CHAD ELLINGTON COMPLETED THE THEATRE FROM CHERRY AND SLATE, AND COMPLETED THE WIRING. SPEAKERS WERE INSTALLED IN THE SLATE TOWERS. DONE IN DES MOINES, IOWA.



ELLINGTON HOME

THE TWO PIECES INCLUDED HERE WERE BUILT FOR CHAD ELLINGTON'S HOME. BELOW IS A MAHOGANY VENEER BUFFET, AND TO THE RIGHT IS A STUCCO FIREPLACE WITH A CURVED MANTEL.



SCARINGE FAMILY HOME INSTALLATIONS

IN THE SCARINGE FAMILY HOME, STEVE CONSTRUCTED VARIOUS HOME INSTALLATIONS INCLUDING MONKEY BARS, A ROCK CLIMBING WALL, AND A REALISTIC FIRE TRUCK FOR PLAY.



BAUGHAN HOME

STEVE DID WORK FOR TOM AND ANN BAUGHAN THROUGH THE WORK OF VARIOUS PROJECTS. A FEW ARE SHOWN HERE. BELOW IS A FIREPLACE THAT STEVE CREATED. HE DID THE STUCCO WORK BEHIND THE FIREPLACE, MADE THE MANTEL OF POPLAR AND MAPLE PLYWOOD, CONSTRUCTED THE IRON DOORS, AND INSTALLED THE MANTEL.



A WELDED PLANT STAND WITH A MARBLE TOP.



A MAPLE AND PLYWOOD UTILITY CABINET.



A DECO, WELDED TABLE WITH A MARBLE TOP.



A WELDED TABLE WITH A GLASS TOP.

COMPILED BY THOMAS MOH,

WHO HOPES THAT THIS BOOK HELPS TO
DEMONSTRATE STEVE ROPER'S WORK, AND
THAT IT MIGHT INSPIRE OTHERS IN THE WAY
IT DID FOR HIM.

