

Functional history in your Own home

By T.S. QUINN

of Erik Fagerland and Associates

Preserving history as well as the environment, Erik Fagerland & Associates have found a passion for working with reclaimed lumber. Erik's commitment to "green building" – that is building with the environment in mind – began in earnest in 1998, with the design and later building of Shorebank on Ilwaco's waterfront. One look at the building reveals a unique quality; one step inside reveals a building rich in character, using lumber salvaged from the old Bumble Bee Shipyard in Astoria, originally harvested from local forests circa 1900.

EFA currently has two particularly interesting types of historical lumber in stock. One is old-growth fir which recently washed up from an early 1900s shipwreck. You may remember reading about the discovery of this material in the Chinook Observer in 1999. The lumber is believed to be from the Canadian Explorer, which sank on a foggy July 29, 1919. The Chinook Observer reported that the site is documented in "Historic Sunken Vessels in the Vicinity of Willapa Bay, Wash." a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers study.

The other type of reclaimed lumber currently available at EFA is Tidagate wood from Youngs Bay, near Fort Clatsop in Warrenton, Ore. This material has a greenish cast from long-term exposure to the water and other elements. This lumber is suitable for use in small items or as trim or molding; it adds real character to any home or office, reflecting our proud northwest coastal heritage.

EFA's commitment to green building has continued, from entire

projects designed around the green concept to just small touches of history in other projects. The majority of the creative work takes place in the EFA millworks shop at Long Beach, Wash. From reusing large, impressive trusses to crafting doors, windows, and fine pieces of furniture, the carpenters at EFA have their work cut out for them. Chuck and Keith are working five days a week to produce unique and beautiful pieces.

One way to bring beauty, interest and history into your home or office space is to have a door or piece of furniture built from historical lumber. That touch might be a door, table, hutch, cabinetry, windows, shelves, small accent pieces, trim or anything imaginable made to your personal specifications. EFA currently has a nice inventory of doors, ready for your selection. You may even arrange to have EFA's carpenters install them.

EFA will be happy to provide an archival brass tag for custom pieces, denoting the date, craftsmanship and history of the materials. This is a wonderful way to chronicle the life of the wood or other materials, adding value to the piece.

For more information or to view a slide show of their work, visit EFA's Web site: <http://www.longbeacharchitect.com> or click on the Erik Fagerland and Associates link on either the funbeach.com (the Long Beach Peninsula Visitors Bureau Web site) or aia-vancouver.org (the American Institute of Architects, Vancouver chapter Web site). Or, stop into the EFA office at 1716 Pacific Avenue N, Long Beach, Wash., to meet the friendly staff, peruse some photos and drawings, and see the carpenters at work.



The reclaimed timber beams add a warm and rustic feeling to this Erik Fagerland designed home. NANCY CAMPICHE for North Coast Living

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