

Although each aquarium incorporates a metal stand for strength, the company also designs custom cabinets to conceal what some clients might view as an eyesore. Most woods, finishes, and styles can be specified by customers to create a cabinet that blends well with their furnishings.

Aquariums by Design sells both fresh and salt water fish and supplies. However, Brandt says that most interior designers prefer salt-water species for their more vivid coloration. Coral is also available in a wide variety of beautiful hues for greater flexibility in tank decoration.

According to Brandt, living coral and anemone (sea flowers) are currently popular, creating a living coral reef in miniature within the tank.

Some people might be intimidated by the demands of keeping a salt-water environment healthy for its completely dependent inhabitants. However, Brandt indicated that recent advancements in food, lighting and filtration systems have made it easier than ever before to keep fresh or salt water fish thriving in captivity.

For those clients who remain skeptical or are short of



Architectural work and furniture of kitchen and eating area both by Peter Landon.

free time, Aquariums by Design offers complete on-site maintenance service contracts. If an illness should still invade an aquarium, despite meticulous care, the company's fish hospitalization option might come in handy.

According to Brandt, an introductory 20-gallon aquarium setup costs approximately \$300. Stocking the tank with fresh water species will run about \$50 to \$100; double that amount for salt water specimens.

Peter Landon

Reminiscent of Frank Lloyd Wright, residential architect Peter Landon, 70 West Hubbard Street, enjoys creating the furniture for the houses he designs and remodels. "This assures total compatibility between the architecture and

the furnishings," Landon said.

His philosophy of architecture and furniture-making are essentially the same. Both are predicated on the precepts of the Arts & Crafts movement.

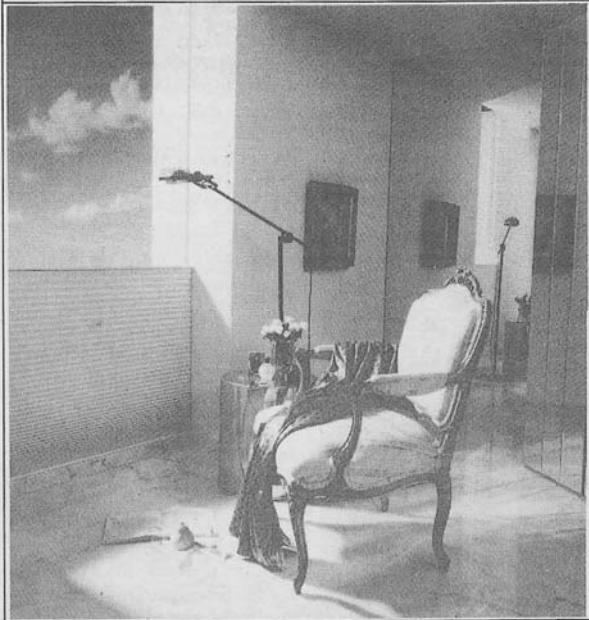
Landon espouses the use of simple forms and high-quality workmanship, combined whenever possible and appropriate, with natural materials and traditional or indigenous stylistic elements.

Custom-designed furniture also offers the ultimate in ergonomics. Landon is able to adjust the backs of chairs, elevations of tables, and so forth, to conform as comfortably as possible to the client's anatomy.

The architect's furniture-making began while visiting an out-of-town friend, who asked Landon if he could build a table. To keep matters as simple as possible, he constructed the table from cardboard, "I was amazed at how durable it turned out to be," Landon remembers.

Building on that initial experience, Landon prefers to stick with relatively soft, contemporary materials. He fashions most of his designs from plywood, but also uses

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Customcreations

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maximum-density particle board and fir wood.

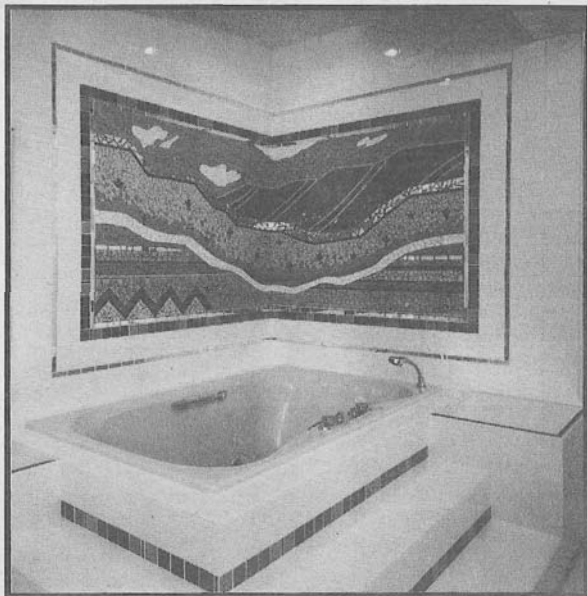
Plywood offers several advantages over more traditional furniture-making hardwoods. First, it's inexpensive. From a single 4-by-8 foot sheet, Landon can create three table chairs, and is able to sell the trio for a very affordable \$150.

Secondly, plywood's strength permits Landon to cut single pieces for chair bottoms and table tops, foregoing the time-consuming gluing of small sections that other woods sometimes require.

Finally, the material's low-cost and strength makes readjustments of angles and contours quick and easy.

Although Landon prefers designing furniture for spaces he's involved with as an architect, he's also willing to accept furniture-building only commissions as well.

However, the architect stresses that he can only take on fairly extensive projects. "It's just not viable to hire a custom furniture designer to



Southwest landscape in a Glencoe bathroom created by Cynthia Weiss Mosaics.

create a single chair for \$50," Landon explained.

Cynthia Weiss Mosaics

Some people love art so much, they'd probably hang paintings in their bathrooms, if

it were not for the threat of moisture damage.

These individuals would do well to call Cynthia Weiss Mosaics, 5729 North Magnolia, to create a fine-art tile mural for their bathroom wall.

However, Weiss stresses