

The Furniture Doctors

Rathdrum, Idaho

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Jacqueline (Jackie) Malinauskas and her husband Paul founded The Furniture Doctors in 1978. The family owned and operated business is located in Rathdrum, Idaho and has a proven reputation for quality, utilizing the best of old and new techniques, products and equipment.

Dr. Jackie has a Masters Degree from the University of Idaho in Industrial Arts and Textile Design which provided foundational knowledge in finishing technology. Jackie has specialized in finishing procedures, cosmetic repairs, touch-up



The Furniture Doctors located in Rathdrum, Idaho.



Owners, Jackie and daughter Lisa, do refinishing and custom color touch up.

and custom color matching, often working with local interior designers. She currently works part-time focusing on insurance claims, developing marketing strategies and writing “The Furniture Doctors Certification Procedures” which she hopes will become approved by the State of Idaho.

Dr. Paul is now retired. Over 35 years of experience has made him a structural expert. His college coursework in engineering and architecture provided him with the knowledge and ability to fabricate new pieces and provide structural stability

wherever needed. He has taught many of these skills to the company’s craftspeople. He was also instrumental in leading the company as CFO resulting in a total debt free corporation.

Family member, Dr. Lisa, grew up with The Furniture Doctors and joined her parents full time in 1998. As shop foreman, she oversees work flow, quality control and securing supplies. She heads up the instruction and certification program used to teach apprentices and craftspeople. Lisa is a master craftswoman herself and can duplicate carving and the fabrication of missing



Gene and Robert in the woodworking department.



The original Couch had four sections. By removing one seat area the couch now fits in the customers home!

pieces. She has become an expert in using epoxy putty, chair re-gluing, structural repairs, touch-up, and finish applications. Lisa is now moving into management, as the second-generation owner.

The company has ten employees, who use their skills to make an old treasure into a useable masterpiece, as well as a new treasure into a functioning item. Many times, the restoration of a family piece is not about the piece itself, but the memories that are restored and passed down to the families to come. Some families even document the ownership of a

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trunk, dresser, or other treasure by tracing the ownership and permanently attaching the document to the item. The doctors love to work on these pieces and feel that it is a privilege to help preserve a families' heritage. Newer pieces are also brought to their shop for structural repairs, a finish "face-lift," or new upholstery, thus allowing them to be used once again in residential and commercial settings.

Refinishing and refurbishing are two terms often used interchangeably by clients. However, there is a very big difference between these two techniques. When the doctors refurbish a piece, it is not completely stripped to bare wood. If the original finish is in good condition, a piece can be cleaned and may receive a custom color touch up of surface rubs and nicks, and then top coated with a lacquer finish. Sometimes the top



These dining chairs have had the seats reworked and been restored to functioning condition.

The doctors are one of the few shops in the area with the skills to replace hand or factory caned chairs, rushing, Danish cord or repair wicker. They also have a complete upholstery shop and can order 15,000 different fabrics.

Since they have been in business for over 38 years, their skill level is unsurpassable. They have worked on items dating from the late 1600s, all types of antiques, the desirable mid-century modern collectibles, and new items as well. The certification training program that is currently being developed for their woodworkers, finishing experts and upholsters will insure quality craftsmanship for years to come.



Restored to its original condition this beautiful cedar chest had been painted and well used.

coat of lacquer is on the entire piece, and sometimes it is just where the touch up has been done, depending on the client's desired look. This will improve the appearance by about 50 percent, thereby retaining the original "feel" of the item. To determine if a piece can be refurbished, it must be evaluated in person by the doctors. If complete refinishing is needed, the item will have the entire old finish removed through a chemical process. Structural repairs will follow which might include regluing, gouge repair, fabricating parts or veneer restoration. Then the item will be stained and finished.

The doctors have a very detailed, systematic way of re-gluing loose joints. Old glue must be removed before the new glue can penetrate and bond to the wood. First the doctors separate the loose joints, label them and then scrape all the old glue off both sides of the joint without damaging the joint itself. They will then apply new glue and clamp the piece in place, making sure it is level. Pieces can be fabricated as needed and veneer can be repaired. Dog chews and deep gouges are filled with a two-part epoxy putty. The repair is faux painted to hide the repair and top coated with lacquer to match the color and sheen.



The patina of this buffet has been restored after many years of functional use.

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