

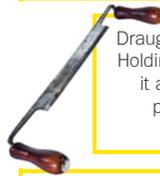


Closer Inspection

Drauglis made this maple and oak **Pup of Monster Cabinet** (\$1,800) over four months in 2006. It's part of a series he started in 2002 with "a bookcase with horns" — a.k.a. Monster Cabinet.



Drauglis likes **apricot wood** for its marble-like appearance: "There are all these little insect holes in it. When you peel [the bark] or start to take some of it off ... there's this intricate pattern underneath it of where the bugs have been chewing."



Drauglis uses a **draw knife** to remove bark. Holding a handle with each hand, he moves it along the wood's exterior to "get into places where a blade can't get, just to rough it out," he says.

He **stained** the oak by dissolving steel wool in vinegar and wiping it on the wood. "The steel and the vinegar react with the tannins in the wood to turn it black or bluish black," Drauglis says. "It's a natural nontoxic stain."

The pup's **mouth** is made from leftover ash, maple and cherry wood bound together with copper wire at the back of the cabinet. "It reinforces that Frankenstein's monster kind of feel," Drauglis says. The pup also a removable walnut tail.



Drauglis's five-drawer walnut work, "**This Is My Body**" (\$12,500), recalls the figure of Jesus. The head is made of maple, while apple and peach twigs represent Jesus's crown of thorns. The drawers' irregular shapes evoke the "image of being wrapped in a loincloth. ... I thought that would reinforce the body imagery."

Free-form furniture

Artisan lets his 'imagination run wild'

BY KRIS CORONADO

It began with African mahogany. While working as an assistant technical director at the Shakespeare Theatre's scenery shop in 1998, Art Drauglis came across a piece of the wood left over in storage. "It was basically abandoned property," he recalls. "Nobody had any

idea where it came from, so I said, 'I'm gonna make a table out of this.'"

While the table didn't fare too well — it warped on the D.C. resident's porch — it was the predecessor of many creations Drauglis would make in coming years. In 2001, he decided to pursue his furniture-making hobby full time and launched a Web site (adrauglis.com) to sell his creations. Soon, he found himself drifting away from the traditional styles with which he had started and moved toward "the arty pieces and messing around with giant slabs of wood, letting my imagination run wild on things," says Drauglis, now 43. Today his creations, made mostly of salvaged wood, are anything but traditional. "What I like about this is the art in it," he says. "They're fun to make and see what some of the wood does."



The **Arm Chair** (\$1,200) is made from a cherry tree. The chair has only one arm (hence the name), which was an accident. "I did intend it to have two arms, but after I made the seat, I was like, 'I can't sit in it if it has two arms,'" Drauglis says.