



Clay Aronson

History doesn't rank ash as the most desirable wood for furniture making. But history lacks woodworker Clay Aronson's vision—and his distinctive exposed-joinery technique, which he pairs with unique contrasting finishes. This low-carb's affinity for craftsmanship has resulted in a sleek collection of contemporary furniture that makes good design out of unfortunate circumstances. Ash trees, planted in communities throughout the Midwest for their ability to grow tall—and quickly—are now being removed due to infestations of the pesky emerald ash borer. Aronson, informed by a degree in architecture, saw purpose beyond firewood for the compromised trees. "Each piece has a history," he says. "I know the origin of every log that I mill to make something that's heirloom quality. We're making the urban wood movement that salvages trees available to the market, and that's especially rewarding." (aronsonwoodworks.com) —*Krista Rosbund*





