

From Firewood to Furniture



Winters get pretty brisk in Lakefield, Ontario, the rural, wooded corner of Canada where Michael Fortune makes furniture. In the cold months, the woodstove runs constantly, eating up whatever it can. Occasionally, though, the firewood finds its way into the furniture. One day while designing this sideboard, Fortune carried in an armload of split maple from the firewood pile out back. When he noticed that some of it was spalted, he realized he'd just found his drawer fronts—the jagged, dark markings in the creamy maple would pair beautifully with the sideboard's flat planes of walnut. He set some spalted pieces of firewood aside, and before the stove needed feeding again he'd made a couple of simple bandsaw jigs that let him turn gnarly logs into parts fit for furniture (see p. 90). A similar sideboard is featured in Fortune's "Develop Your Own Designs," on p. 42.

—Jonathan Binzen



Photos: Michael Fortune (top),
Jonathan Binzen (bottom)