

Vaulted Veneer

When he started making furniture in the 1990s, Enrico König says he was “a bit of a solid-wood snob. I figured veneered work was inferior.” With a background in carpentry and a lucrative seasonal job running a tree-planting crew in his native British Columbia, König taught himself woodworking in the winters.

His tastes ran to Arts and Crafts furni-

ture and traditional solid-wood joinery. But when he had the idea for a table with an arched base, he began exploring bent-lamination and veneering with increasing excitement. Using a vacuum bag to glue up thin sheets of bending plywood, he found he could create a range of arched forms that were both strong and striking. He made tapered arches by sending individual sheets of bending ply through a drum sander on a sloped fixture. He loved the new shapes he was making and also loved the ability veneer gave him to play with grain patterns. These days, making furniture full time in his Vancouver shop, he admits, “I’ve officially become a veneer enthusiast.”

—Jonathan Binzen



Photos: Goran Basiric