

**M**ichael Cullen, who attended a demanding program in traditional European-style furniture making,



always envied potters and glass blowers for the speed and spontaneity

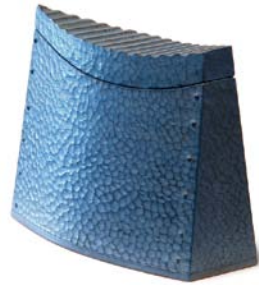


of their work. He loved the idea of conceiving a form on the fly and seeing it materialize in moments. “But



nothing happens fast in furniture,” he says.

The craft prizes planning, patience, and methodical exactitude, and



## Bandsawn Beauty



Cullen has spent three decades displaying those virtues while building refined and complex furniture. But somewhere along the way he discovered that his bandsaw could turn a small scrap of wood



into a beautiful box in a few hours. No drawing, no joinery, no measuring. Just a little freehand bandsaw work, a seamless glue-up, and the box was ready for



any carved or painted detail he wanted to add. No need to envy anyone



now.  
—Jonathan Binzen

Photos: Jonathan Binzen

**How They Did It** Turn to p. 98 to see how Cullen decorates his boxes. For an article on how to build them, see pp. 60-65.

**Audio Slide Show** To see dozens of Cullen’s bandsawn boxes in detail and hear his commentary, go to [FineWoodworking.com/extras](http://FineWoodworking.com/extras).

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