



Guild Works

One of the cherished ideals of the Arts and Crafts Movement was the crafts guild, a society of artisans whose goal was to make items of usefulness and beauty, in ways that were as fulfilling for the maker as the recipient. In the Northeast, the New England Artisans Guild (neaguild.com) includes specialists in the decorative arts, and in San Francisco, Artistic License (artisticlicense.org) celebrates its 20th anniversary this fall. The group initially formed when artisans like period wallpaper specialist Bruce Bradbury and stained glass restorer Allen Dragge realized they were working on

restoration projects together, and wanted to maintain the traditional quality of craft. Today, the invitation-only organization boasts members in every aspect of period restoration and decoration, from building construction to period textiles. And they still collaborate. Furniture-maker Debey Zito recalls a residential project in Berkeley "where I did two pieces of furniture, George Zaffle did a frieze all around the house, Dianne Ayres did all the curtains, and Peter Bridgman hung Bradbury & Bradbury paper." Required meetings are no hardship when the former owner of the renowned French Laundry cooks the food, or when Bradbury invites everyone to a summer party on his Napa Valley spread. "It's a party," Zito says. -MEP

yet know a soul, get good word of mouth from The Franklin Report (franklinreport.com, 866-990-9100), an online resource for homeowners in these major markets. (The Hamptons and other sites are coming soon.) Founded by Elizabeth Franklin, formerly an investment banker, The Franklin Report provides a database

of thousands of service providers in nearly 40 categories, from architects to window washers. Listed companies tout their products and abilities, but clients sign the report card: providers are ranked based on personal recommendations, work quality, and the value of the work relative to its cost. The Franklin Report

motto: "And the truth shall set you free." -MEP

Root and Branch

Nature abhors a straight line. That's a fitting theme for the 15th Rustic Furniture Fair at the Adirondack Museum in Blue Mountain Lake, New York, where furniture fashioned out of roots, twigs, bark, and burl

will be on display Sept. 14. More than 50 rustic furniture makers will show and sell their wares in the juried exhibition. Visitors can also check out the museum's extensive collection of 19th-century rustic furniture. For more information, contact the museum, (518) 352-7311, adirondackmuseum.org

OPEN HOUSE Between 1914 and 1919, William H. Gillette built for himself a 24-room castle in **HADLYME, CONNECTICUT**. (Gillette was a playwright and Victorian actor noted for his interpretation of Sherlock Holmes.) No two doors, windows, or roofs are the same in the eccentric fieldstone building, conceived of as a kind of European "ruin." Gillette also designed the larger-than-life interior; it includes a dining-room table that moves on tracks and (of course) a secret room and a hidden staircase. The photo at left shows balcony and living room, where you see the red- and green-dyed sisal mats on the walls that serve as wallcovering throughout. The interior was very much influenced by the Arts and Crafts movement. • Just months ago, GILLETTE CASTLE opened to the public after a three-year, \$5.9 million restoration by Kronenberger and Sons Restoration [(860) 347-4600] in Middletown, Conn. Hours are 10-5 daily until Columbus Day weekend; call (860) 526-2336.

