

Fresh Federal



Gerald Curry worked in his father's hardware store outside Boston from third grade through high school, long enough to develop a deep affinity for tools and handwork—and a deep dislike for long days of waiting on customers. It struck him that a career making furniture in a one-man shop could answer both issues. Unschooled in furniture making, Curry set out to learn the craft by copying museum pieces. He figured he could develop his own designs later. As it happened, after moving to Maine in 1976, Curry spent nearly 25 years reproducing American furniture of the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Then in 2000 he quit reproductions cold turkey to build original work. His new designs, like this sideboard in quartersawn walnut and curly maple, are a breath of fresh air. Made with traditional joinery and steeped in the shapes and proportions of the past, they are transformed with a clarity, lightness, and restraint that future furniture makers may well want to copy.

—Jonathan Binzen



Pro Portfolio Visit FineWoodworking.com to learn more about Curry's design inspirations in an audio slide show of his work.