

## Local woodworker shares his knowledge

After teaching one-on-one woodworking lessons for more than two and a half years in his own workshop in Erin, fine furniture designer and builder, Hendrik Varju has been seeking opportunities to write about woodworking as well.

"Writing is a natural extension of teaching," says Varju, owner of Passion for Wood. "Because of my passion for wood and the work that I do, I have always enjoyed talking about my work and explaining how I do things. That is why I got into the teaching aspect and why I also want to teach through writing."

Recently, Canada's leading woodworking/do-it-yourself magazine, called "Canadian Home Workshop," chose Varju to become their newest contributing editor. Varju will have an opportunity to write articles about furniture projects he has completed with an eye to helping readers build those projects themselves. Typical articles include photographs, plans and materials lists.

"I am looking forward to sharing my knowledge with others and reaching a broader audience," says Varju.

Earlier this year, Varju expanded his teaching program to include a week-long intensive course.

"Most of my students have always taken lessons on an hourly basis. The learning is slow and spread over a long period of time. Students who drive from Toronto on a weekly basis to take a two-hour lesson often spend more time driving than working on their project." As a result, Varju has developed a 40-hour

course, taught on a one-on-one basis. The student builds a solid black cherry side table with tapered, fluted legs. He teaches the student about furniture design, wood science, use of woodworking machines, finishing, etc.

"Once the student commits to the weeklong course, I clear that week from my normal business schedule to do nothing but teach that one student, says Varju.

"It also gives serious amateurs who live farther away an opportunity to make a 'working holiday' out of it." Varju can put the student in touch with local bed & breakfasts or inns and suggest places to eat while taking the course. Varju says that his students are usually serious hobbyists, although he is increasingly getting calls from people who want to get into woodworking as a career.

In addition, Varju has started something he calls a "do-it-yourself consultation service." He provides woodworking-related advice over the telephone or in person for people who do not wish to take formal lessons. "Usually, the people who use my service are just looking for some very specific advice about a particular project they are undertaking. Or they might just want some unbiased tool purchasing advice."

Just recently, Varju launched his new Web site, [www.passionforwood.com](http://www.passionforwood.com). It features a gallery of his work, details regarding his teaching and an "Ask a Professional" page. For more information, call Varju at Passion for Wood. He can be reached at 519-853-2027. Or, check out his new Web site and e-mail him at [info@passionforwood.com](mailto:info@passionforwood.com).

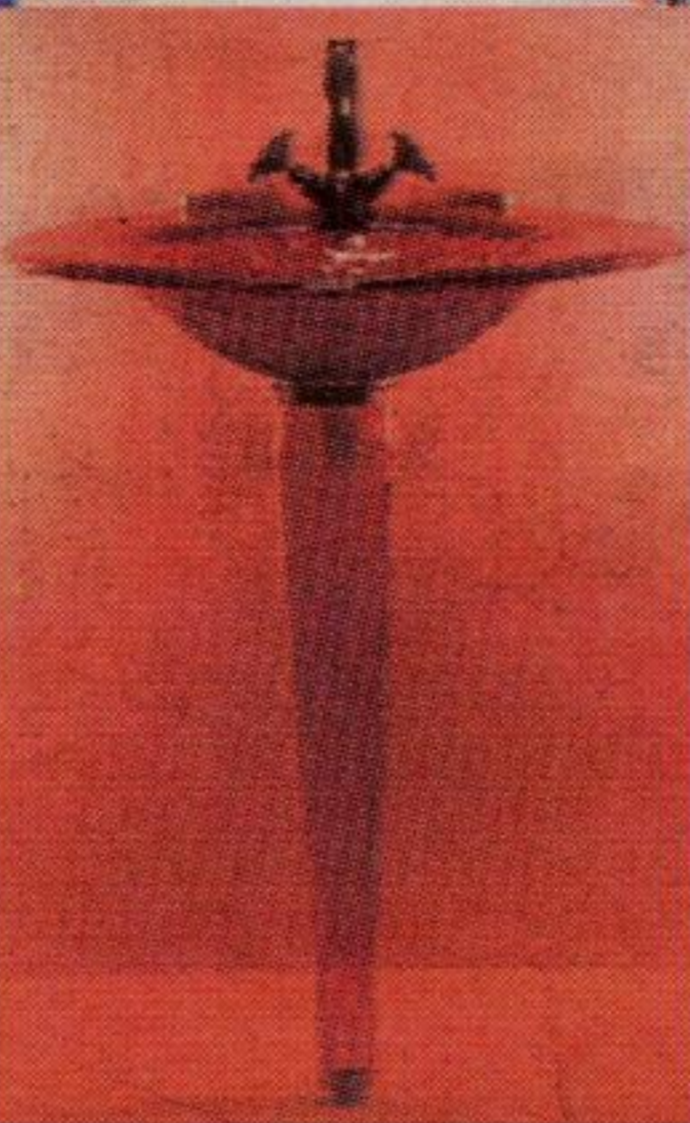
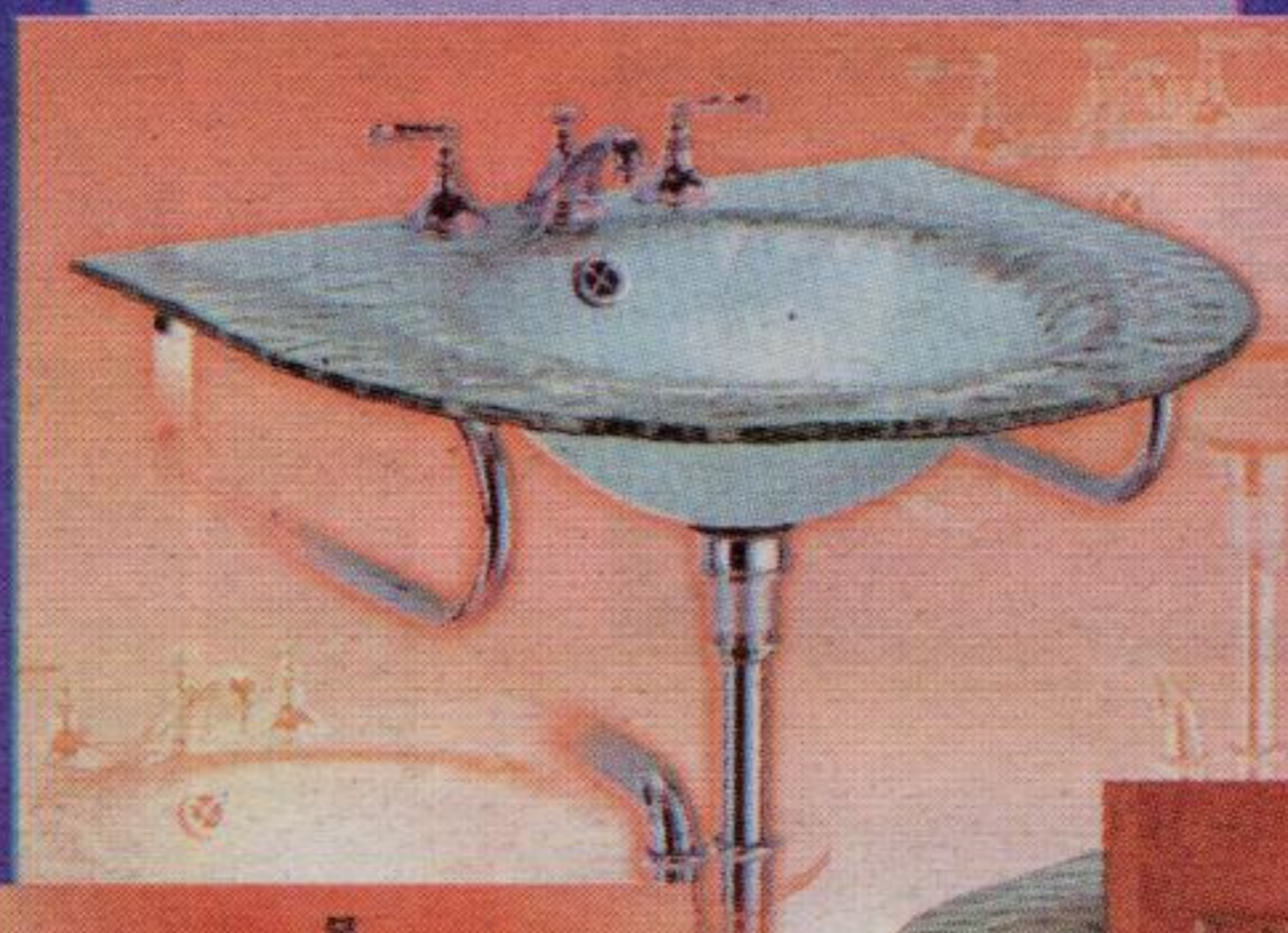


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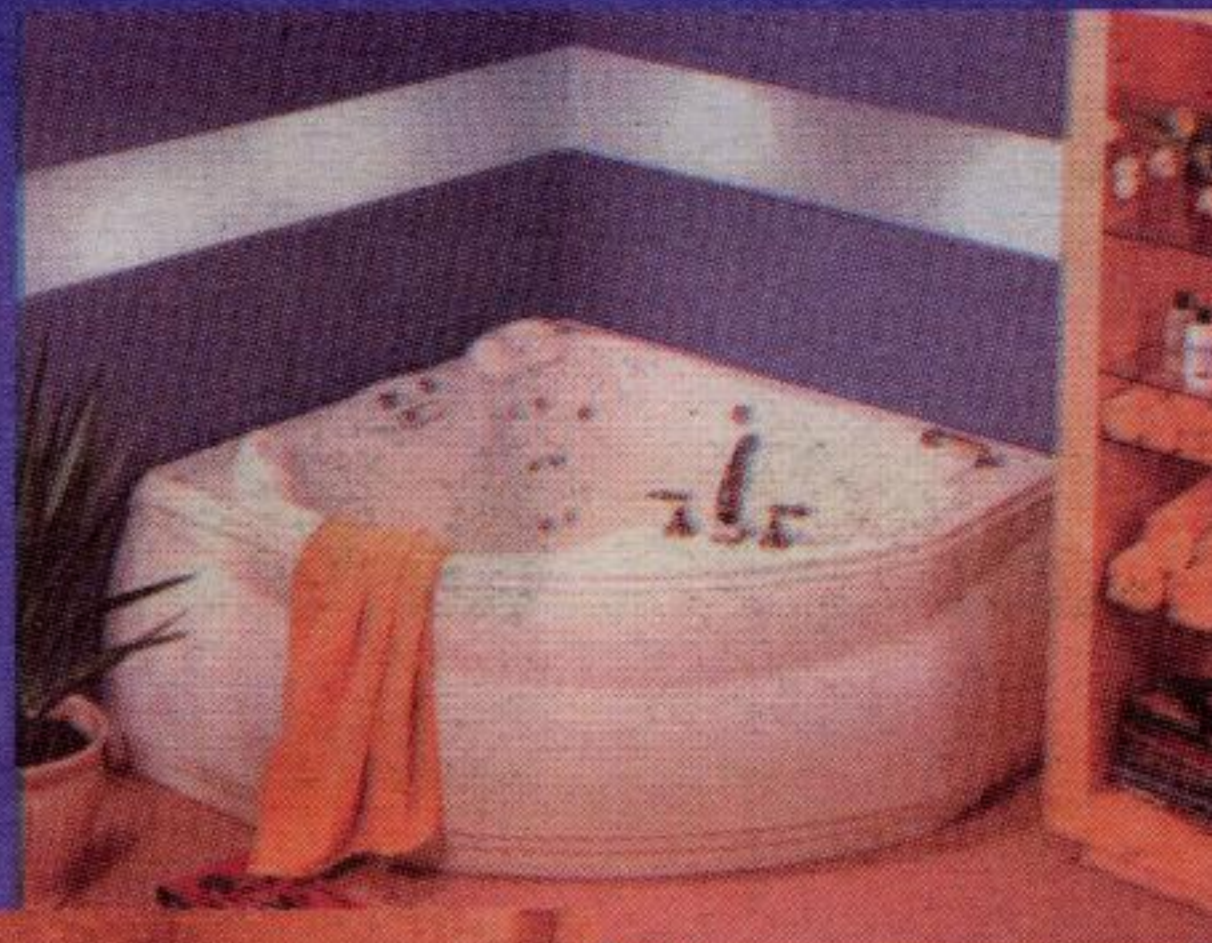
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