

# W.P.S.

Manufacturers of fine furniture and  
interior cabinetry since 1886

## Walter P. Sauer at the ICFF 2010



# TouchSkins

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Contact:

Mr. Anthony S. Morris  
Walter P. Sauer  
276 Greenpoint Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11222  
718-937-0600  
info@walterpsauer.com  
www.walterpsauer.com

**Fine Furniture Manufacturer Walter P. Sauer Showcases Several New Limited-Edition Art Pieces that Meld Traditional Joinery with Cutting Edge Design at the 22nd International Contemporary Furniture Fair, Jacob K. Javits Convention Center, New York City, May 15-18, 2010**

Walter P. Sauer, America's premier maker of fine furniture, has collaborated with two designers and a Japanese textile company to create several heirloom-quality pieces that exhibit the company's expert craftsmanship and versatility. On display at the 2010 ICFF will be three breakthrough chairs by up-and-coming Italian architect Antonio Pio Saracino, two cabinets by designer and expert cabinetmaker Anthony S. Morris that reinterpret French Art Deco, and several pieces that use the time-honored silk fabrics of Japanese kimonos in new and innovative ways.

"What distinguishes Walter P. Sauer," said Morris,

who is also the company's owner and CEO, "is that we start with a rigorous foundation of traditional joinery, classical techniques, and serious European craftsmanship. And building on this, we produce everything from reproductions to the most avant-garde pieces. We can work in any style and period, and with any material, from wood, stone, glass, and metals to fabrics, fiber, and skins."

Founded in 1886 and located in Brooklyn, New York, Walter P. Sauer is unique among cabinet-makers. It is structured like a traditional European guild with artisans that come from all over the world and have been trained by generations of craftspeople. The cabinetmakers at W P. S possess a range of expertise far beyond traditional joinery. Their combined skills allow W P. S to create pieces of exceptional beauty and craftsmanship with a wholly cohesive feel.

Morris's cabinets, a semanier and a sideboard, display the workshop's versatility. Crafted out of an unusual combination of macassar ebony, a rare wood, and the overused English brown oak, the semanier is a contemporary comment on French Art Deco and English Arts and Crafts. Its metal hinges and lock, a tribute to Tommi Parzinger, tap into W P. S's facility with metal. Morris is particularly interested in showcasing the beauty of the materials he uses. In his sideboard, he foregrounds the exquisite grain of a rare Brazilian rosewood that was remaindered at the workshop

# MetalWood



over 30 years ago. Celebrated Italian architect and designer Antonio Pio Saracino has designed three chairs for W P. S that explore how the structures found in the natural world can be expressed in man-made objects. The Cervo Chair (cervo is deer in Italian) is shaped out of thin strips of bent wood covered with leather that recall the ribcage and antlers of a deer. The Bloom and Blossom Chairs—the first with four petals and the second with 10—each consist of a seat and a back that curl toward each other when sat upon and spring back slightly when vacant, much like the petals of a flower opening and closing. W P. S will also display Saracino's Modular Chair, which it will be producing in wood in the future.

Saracino seeks "a new paradigm for design," he said, which "reconnects the human body to nature" and emerges, in part, from the fact that today the machine itself is viewed as a dynamic,

living system. In addition to furniture, Saracino has designed high-profile commercial and residential buildings around the globe. Based in New York City, Saracino has won numerous international awards—including four Future Furniture Awards—for his innovative work. He was drawn to W P. S, he said, because, like its European counterparts, the workshop partners with the designer in the manufacturing process.

Also on display at this year's ICFF will be the Kicho Screen designed by Morris using the Japanese obi, the silk sash that holds together the traditional kimono. The obis used were all provided by Kimono New York, a company dedicated to promoting obi fabrics for home furnishings. Last year W P. S collaborated with Kimono New York and designer William Gordon to produce two chairs, the Kimono Chaise and Hakama Chair and Ottoman.

Walter P. Sauer works with many high-end designers, and its clientele includes high-profile institutions and commercial outlets, as well as private individuals.

**Walter P. Sauer will be located at Booth # 2166 at the ICFF.**

# Antonio Pio Saracino

## Designer's Statement

"Design is the place between humans and nature."

Both as an artist and designer, I explore the artificial world designed by men and the ethical expectations within it. Technology, an element that becomes more and more dramatically important in this man-made world, is intended in my work as a kind of evolving second skin that is able to extend our bodies and expand our senses.

Modernism looked to technology and within the machine to find the paradigm for a new design. The 'functional machine' aesthetic alienated the human body from its roots in nature. Today information technologies and new sophisticated technologies allow re-thinking the machines as a living entity; this is where a new organic living paradigm in design can reconnect human body to nature.

All of the things that we create have their origin in nature, we extract materials and we design them into a new shape. In this process I like to blur tradition, technology and nature.

When I create furniture I want to create objects that echo our bodies and the natural world where we come from.'

— Antonio Pio Saracino

## Biography

Antonio Pio Saracino is a multi-faceted designer and artist. He was born in southern Italy and he currently works and lives between New York City and Rome. Saracino, a licensed Italian Architect, received his Master's degree in Architecture from 'La Sapienza' University of Rome, where he was also an assistant professor of architectural design. From 2002 to 2004, he worked in several architectural studios in Italy and the U.S., including the firm of Massimiliano Fuksas in Rome.

Since 2004, Saracino has collaborated with New York architect Steve Blatz on competitions, interior design and conceptual projects such as the Seed House, a pod-shaped residence that received an American Architecture Award in 2007 from the Chicago Athenaeum and the Museum of Architecture. Saracino has won numerous international art, architecture and design awards, including four distinct Future Furniture Awards by Interior Design Magazine.

His projects have been widely published in design and art magazines in Italy, U.K., The Netherlands, France, Belgium, Australia, Japan and the U.S. The interior design project of the Tibi boutique in Soho in 2007 was featured in the Best of the Year issue of Interior Design magazine and in the Global Shop of Wallpaper. Saracino was selected as the winner of the Agorafolly art competition for Europalia-Europa Art Festival 2007/2008 in Brussels, Belgium. The 27 artists, selected to represent each of the 27 countries of the European Union, presented installations

epitomizing the future image of Europe throughout the squares of Brussels. Representing Italy, Saracino's large scale installation commissioned by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs was placed in front of La Gare Centrale.

Art work and design by Saracino have been exhibited in galleries and museums throughout Europe, the US and Latin America. His artwork has also been included in ITALIDEA, an exhibition of Italian Excellence, traveling to museums worldwide. In 2007 he was named as one of the world's 25 most interesting trend-setters by

New York's ARTnews magazine. In 2009 he was commissioned to design an outdoor sculpture for the Museum of Contemporary Art Caraffa, in Cordoba Argentina, in celebration of the 200-year anniversary of Argentina's Independence. He was also commissioned by the Marinetti family to design a monument to Filippo Tommaso Marinetti on the occasion of the centenary of the Futurist Manifesto.

Antonio Pio Saracino's website:  
[www.antoniopiosaracino.com](http://www.antoniopiosaracino.com)

Blossom Chair, Limited Edition.  
Bleached plywood.  
Design by Antonio Pio Saracino  
Manufactured by Walter P. Sauer



Blossom Chair, Limited Edition.  
Black Plywood, Leather.  
Design by Antonio Pio Saracino  
Manufactured by Walter P. Sauer





## AS MORRIS

FINE FURNITURE MAKER

### Designer's Statement

For a furniture maker, the essence of design is in the materials and the execution of the craft. My intention is to allow the extraordinary materials and the traditions of craft to speak for themselves.

Inherent in furniture design is the necessity to join form with function. Form and function are often wildly divergent. To work as a cabinetmaker, is to give expression to the natural beauty of the materials shaped by the human hand in the creation of functional objects.

As a designer, I have also become intent upon using remaindered materials to create new pieces. Not only is it responsible, it is also productive. For me, using the leftovers from production whenever possible is the perfect answer to Ruskin's statement that "Industry without art is brutality."

— Anthony S. Morris

### Biography

Anthony S. Morris has over 35 years of experience as a fine furniture designer and craftsman. Born and raised in Detroit, Morris came to New York City as a young man to pursue a career in modern dance, but quickly turned to cabinet-making. In 1974, Morris joined the workshop of Walter P. Sauer, a fine furniture manufacturer located in Brooklyn, New York.

Starting out as an apprentice who cleaned up the shop and ran errands, Morris worked his way up to the position of plant manager. In 1987, he purchased the company and became its CEO.

Morris's expertise encompasses three fundamental areas. He is able to access the finest materials available. He has the engineering skills to translate any design into a three-dimensional structurally integral piece. And he possesses the acumen and experience to collaborate effectively with any designer.

For many years Morris's designs were made to meet the specifications and vision of his clients and other designers. This year, Morris debuts his own collection with a sideboard and semanier, which showcase his own sensibilities. Both pieces pay homage to the French furniture arts in the years between 1920 and 1950, an era that Morris regards as the golden era of furniture making.

A lifelong student of philosophy and religion, Morris has spent many years thinking about what it means to create an object that is both functional and beautiful—and about the role of work more generally. Morris's understanding of these matters deeply informs his approach to design and to his position as CEO of W P. S.

Anthony S. Morris · Fine Furniture Maker  
276 Greenpoint Avenue  
Brooklyn, New York 11222  
Tel: 718 937 0600 · Fax: 718 482 9409  
info@asmorris.com · www.asmmorris.com



Custom semanier made of Macassar Ebony, English Brown Oak, Honduran Mahogany, with custom bronze hardware and details  
Cabinet footprint is 19" wide x 16" deep; overall height is 56" [46.26 cm wide x 40.64 cm deep; overall height is 142.2 cm]  
Interior holds seven haberdashery drawers and one jewelry drawer  
Inspired by the work of Émile-Jacques Ruhlman and Paul Dupré-Lafon  
Manufactured by Walter P. Sauer · Designed by Anthony S. Morris



Custom sideboard made of extremely rare "Old Growth" figured Brazilian rosewood  
Cabinet is 84" x 18" x 36" high [213.3 cm x 45.72 cm x 91.44 cm high]. 6 doors with adjustable shelving inside  
Inspired by the work of Paul Dupré-Lafon and Maxime Old  
Manufactured by Walter P. Sauer · Designed by Anthony S. Morris



## kimono new york

Kimono New York is dedicated to promoting the use of kimono and obi fabrics for fine furnishings and décor. It is located in the heart of New York City's garment district and offers designers and manufacturers access to over 50 of Japan's top-rate kimono and obi manufacturers. Kimono New York also promotes the use of natural fibers for fabric production and environmentally sustainable design.

The tradition of the kimono and its intricate hand-woven silk fabrics date back over a millennium and are a fundamental part of Japan's cultural heritage. It is our mission to help sustain and support this tradition by encouraging the Japanese to wear the kimono and by introducing Americans to the timeless beauty of kimono and obi fabrics.

We partner with American designers and manufacturers to create fine décor using these fabrics and provide unparalleled access to Japan's top fabric producers.

As part of our mission we endorse environmentally sustainable design by working only with fabrics manufacturers that use natural fibers.

Kimono New York  
1410 Broadway, Suite 2618  
New York, NY 10018  
Tel: 212-869-0500  
info@kimononewyork.com  
www.kimononewyork.com

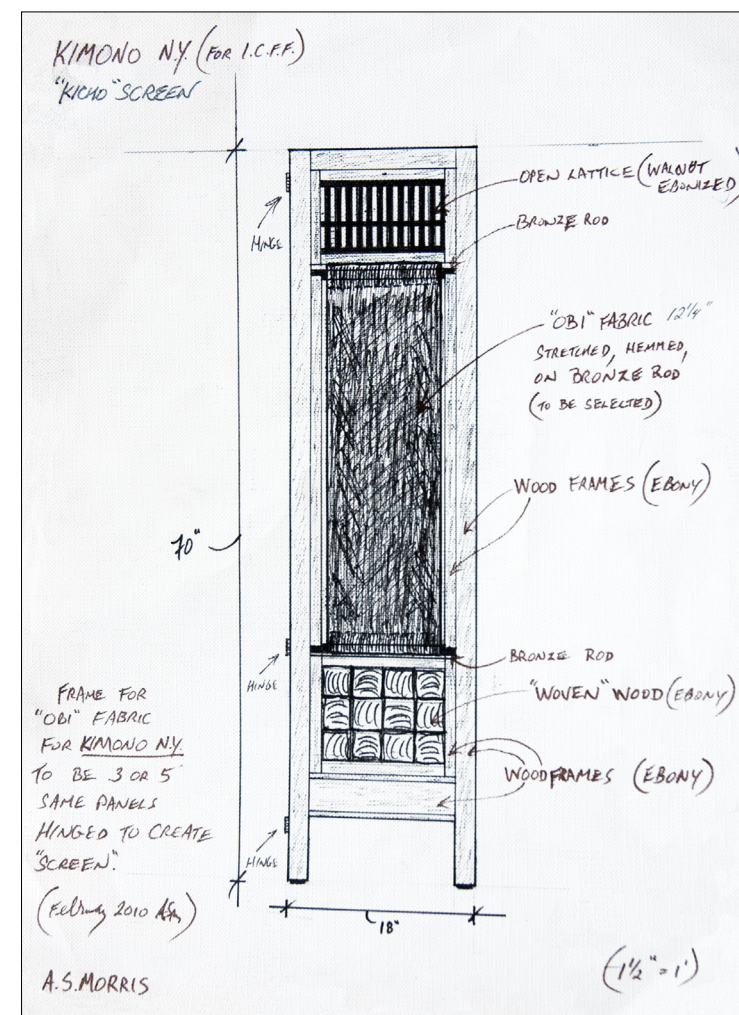


Hakama Chair

Dimensions: 32.2" long x 45.5" high x 47.6" wide  
[82 cm long x 113 cm high x 121 cm wide]

Ottoman  
Dimensions: 18.1" long x 21.6" high x 34.6" wide  
[46 cm long x 55 cm high x 88 cm wide]

Manufactured by Walter P. Sauer  
Designed by William Gordon



5 section screen in Malassar Ebony  
with Bronze details, displaying traditional  
Japanese "OBI" Fabric.

Each of the five sections is 70" high x 18" wide.  
[177.8 cm high x 45.7 cm wide]  
Overall the five sections screen stands at  
approximately 72" to 80" wide.  
[182.9 cm to 203.2 cm wide]

Manufactured by Walter P. Sauer  
Designed by Anthony S. Morris





# WPS

Manufacturers of fine furniture and  
interior cabinetry since 1886

**“Design is an integrative process that  
seeks resolution (not compromise)  
through cross-disciplinary teamwork.”**

**— Michael S. Smith, Interior Designer  
and CEO of Michael S. Smith, Inc.**

# TouchSkins MetalWood

## **Media Kit**

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Art Direction, Layout and Design:  
Ralph Lichtensteiger · [www.onclickberlin.com](http://www.onclickberlin.com)

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Text (pages 2 and 3):  
Talia Bloch