Justin Ayars: Antique Furniture

The recipient of a law degree from George Mason University School of Law, Justin Ayars has started numerous companies since graduating. Tinkers, LLC, one of Ayars’ firms, functions as a woodshop that purchases and restores antique lumber.

Antique lumber refers to older, high-quality pieces of wood that can be used for numerous projects, including antique furniture. For millenia craftsmen relied on solid wood to produce furniture, but eventually they discovered veneers. Thin sheets of wood, veneers enabled them to carve decorations and patterns while improving efficiency and reducing waste. Another unique feature of veneered furniture is that the body can be made from a less expensive wood, such as pine or oak, with the more impressive wood placed over it.

Veneered furniture first obtained significant attention during an era known as the walnut period (1680-1740). It earned this name because of the popularity of walnut as a veneer. Laburnum, olive, and tulipwood also found regular use as veneers throughout this time. Over the next several centuries, different woods, such as beech, cedar, cherry, and chestnut, came into style. Today, many people purchase antique lumber to create antique-style furniture of their own.