

GÉRARD BURBADA DIP

**Restoration, repair
and conservation of
all fine furniture**

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Normal office hours

“Furniture is Master”

Every piece of fine furniture, antique or modern, was made by a master craftsman. That piece of furniture, a collection of assorted woods, animal skins, fabrics and fittings, becomes endowed with the genius of its maker. In effect it becomes the master and, like all masters, is required to be treated with the respect and humility.

One of the great privileges of what I do, through my intimate study and involvement with a piece, is to get to know the master, its uniqueness, idiosyncrasies and beauty. I hope it appreciates my efforts to repair, restore and add value. I hope that you will too.

About me

I trained at the London College of Furniture and West Dean College where I gained my Diploma in the Restoration of Antique Furniture. Since then I have had over thirty years experience in the restoration, repair and conservation of all types of furniture, antique and modern. This proven expertise has allowed me to work for well known clients including The National Trust, The Royal Historic Palaces Agency, English Heritage and Peter Jones Antiques. However my private clients are treated with the same attention to detail and care as I do in my work for household names, after all, the value of a piece of furniture can often be perceived as greater than its 'book' value if it has sentimental and familial connections.

Although the majority of my work is undertaken in my Chichester workshop I often travel around England to work, should the need arise.

My skills

These encompass all aspects of the restoration, repair and rebuilding of antique and modern furniture. This includes ageing, cleaning and restoring finishes, through to designing and building from scratch.

I also possess the complementary metalworking skills to repair hinges, handles, escutcheons, locks and keys and all types of brasswork. I am able repair and replace leatherwork, upholstery and painted surfaces as well as marquetry and parquetry.

Repairing the damage caused by woodworm and insects and treating to avoid future infestations is a popular request: if you cannot see what I have done then I have done a good job! Finally I can undertake conservation surveys and provide insurance quotes and security marking.

If your requirements are not covered by the above it is probably because of brevity - contact me for an honest answer.

My experience

I have accumulated over thirty years experience of commissions from institutional (The National Trust and English Heritage), commercial (Peter Jones Antiques), and private clients. But as we are all aware, being able to do the job is just one signpost leading to a happy customer. Completing on time and at the right price are equally important factors.

"Since refurbishing the private family apartments at Knole in 2008, we have been using Gerard Bur to restore and repair the furniture that has been there for hundreds of years. We have been so impressed with the skill, sensitivity and common sense that he has brought to the job; and have no hesitation in recommending him wholeheartedly."

Lord and Lady Sackville, Knole House, Kent

"Gerard Bur has been involved in the restoration of antique British and Continental furniture for me for a number of years. He uses tact and practicality in deciding what is appropriate for restoration therefore keeping costs to a reasonable amount. I know that he approaches each piece with expert knowledge and historic sensitivity. He is a kind and fun person to have in my home and I would recommend MR BUR wholeheartedly."

Lady Knowles, West Sussex

Examples

In the main what I do, using a myriad of skills and techniques, is to restore an item of furniture, anything from a small storage box to a refectory table, to its former glory thus increasing its value, its usefulness - and the pleasure it gives to those who own it.

Frequently asked questions

Do you provide an estimate of costs before commencing work?

Yes. Each piece is individually assessed.

Do you charge for coming to view an item with a view to estimating?

Not unless travelling distance is over 20 miles.

Can you arrange for collection and delivery or do I need to arrange that?

I am happy to collect and deliver or you can do either.

Can you work on a item in my house?

It depends on the nature of the task - generally my workshop is the most appropriate.

Are there examples of your work that I could see?

There are - call to arrange a viewing.

What is your preferred method of payment?

Cash or cheque.

Can you value an item for insurance purposes?

Yes I can - call to discuss.

If you have any further questions feel free to contact me.