



Greenway and Ken Nelson found the Batchelder tile fireplace in a Los Angeles antique store and remodeled their suburban family room so it would fit. It is flanked with identical flat-arm Morris chairs and tables that are part of a series in different sizes.

and Crafts design grew from practical considerations: He was looking for a comfortable armchair.

"It turned out to be a Morris chair," he says.

The turning point for them was a trip to Asheville, N.C., to attend the annual Arts and Crafts weekend at the historic Grove Park Inn. Besides preparing them for the auction-intense side of buying and collecting, the weekend fueled their interest in Gustav Stickley, whose Craftsman Workshops produced some of the finest furniture of the period at the same time as his Craftsman Magazine was educating the buying public to the values of functional design.

Greenway and Nelson approached their buying with discipline.

"We were struck with the idea of actually planning our collection," Greenway says. "Because the furniture was published in catalogs, you could see what pieces were meant to go in each room."

They assembled their bedroom first, directed by the first Stickley piece they bought - a vanity table pictured in the 1907 Stickley catalog. The suite came together with the help of dealers and auction houses as far afield as Boston and California. First came a night stand off eBay, then a second one at Grove Park. These were followed by low and high dressers, bedside tables, a sewing rocker, a vanity stool - even a shaving mirror. Their only compromise was the bed itself, which is a reproduction of the original - but king-size - by Portland craftsman Brent Willets of The Handwerk Shop.

In collecting that set, they developed an appreciation for the designs of Harvey Ellis from the short period during which he worked for Stickley. After getting an Ellis-designed china cabinet from a local estate, they decided to look for the complete dining room, also pictured in the 1907 catalog. A server and chairs now share the room with an L. and J.G. Stickley Prairie-style dining table.

In addition to furniture, the couple share an interest in decorative items. They collect Roycroft metal ware, particularly desk accessories, hand-tooled leather in familiar Art Nouveau and Arts and Crafts stylized designs, and art pottery.

Greenway remembers finding her first piece of Saturday Evening Girls pottery after hearing the story behind it. (Immigrant girls in Boston painted pottery blanks while they sat and learned the social graces they would need to be better citizens.) She saw a piece of the pottery in an antique mall in Denver, paid what was then an expensive \$125 and has never turned back.

As they collected more furniture and decorative work, the question kept coming up: Should they move and find a house more appropriate for their collection - a Seattle bungalow, perhaps?

The answer was "no" every time, Greenway says: "We love living in Kirkland, we love our neighborhood, the location and our involvement in the community."

Instead of moving, they talked about remodeling the house, something that eventually was set in motion after they found an intact ➤



Craftsman reproduction lighting outside provides the only clues to the showcase of authentic Arts and Crafts furnishings to be found inside a 10-year-old Kirkland home.

Batchelder tile fireplace in a Los Angeles antique shop last year.

"This is how naive we were," Greenway says. "We assumed that as long as its opening measured smaller than our fireplace opening, we could use it. We would simply take the old tiles off our hearth and it would be attached on the front." In fact, they had to have their chimney completely rebuilt to accommodate it.

Since they were doing that, they made a list of other things they wanted to do. Then they did them all.

They had hardwood installed in previously carpeted spaces, including the stair hall. They replaced Colonial-style stair railings with simpler Mission-style balusters, and replaced picture windows with French doors. They incorporated wood columns they had been storing for 10 years into a wood divider that replaced plaster walls between the dining and living rooms. Contractor Paul Siebenrock had the idea of replacing coved moldings with picture molding in dining and living rooms to form a more traditional backdrop for their collection.

Throughout the process, they were challenged by the reality of the modern house. There was no hiding it, reminded interior designer Karen Hovde of Interior Vision in Port Townsend; it was simply a matter of making changes that were sympathetic.

When all the work was done - or so they thought - they were tempted by some reproduction Gustav Stickley lighting fixtures made by Michael Adams of Aurora Studios of Putnam, Conn. After buying and installing two sconces and four hanging lights, they decided to replace all their light fixtures.

Despite the couple's methodical approach to collecting furniture, there was also much serendipity. There is

Lectures and Design Fair

Historic Seattle Arts & Crafts Guild hosts the third annual Bungalow and Craftsman Home Fair next Saturday and Sunday, at Town Hall, Eighth Avenue and Seneca Street in Seattle. Nearly 50 antique dealers, craftspeople, furniture and interior designers and architects will participate.

Lectures include: Arts & Crafts textiles by Ann Wallace; wallpaper design and reproduction by Bruce Bradbury, founder of Bradbury & Bradbury Art Wallpapers; Batchelder tile by Robert Winter, author of "Batchelder Tile Maker"; and period stenciling by Amy Miller of Trimble River Studios.

Admission to the fair is \$5. A series ticket to all four lectures and the fair is \$40. Individual lectures are \$10 each. Tickets: **206-622-6952**.

still excitement in hearing about unknown, uncataloged pieces that turn up. And while the prices of furniture by "name" people such as Stickley have risen out of affordability for most people, Greenway and Nelson still think there are great opportunities.

"There is a whole world of lesser-known makers who are affordable," she says. "It's not cheap, but it's great furniture - well made, innovatively designed, and there's still a lot of it out there." P

Lawrence Kreisman is program director for Historic Seattle and director of "Viewpoints," the tour program of the Seattle Architectural Foundation. Steve Ringman is a Seattle Times photographer.