

## ○ A toast to Chicago breweries



Before and after shots of a Stan Bernacki project. "I grew up among the ruins of post-World War II," he says, which may help explain his lifelong devotion to restoration.

**FURNITURE CONSERVATION: STAN BERNACKI**

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One of the founders of a furniture conservation business, Stan Bernacki, 52, started the firm in 1988 while focusing on low-paying on-site work. Nowadays, the business handles all types of high-end furniture, including lacquer pieces and difficult-to-repair artifacts such as those with complicated inlays over tortoise shell. Bernacki & Associates also is a founding member of Disaster Planning and Response Art Rescue, a group of restorers based in Chicago with a 24-hour emergency hotline to help with art-related disasters such as items that have been damaged in floods or fires.

Bernacki has worked on high-profile projects such as the conservation of a 19th-century Irish mahogany dining table that recently was on display at the Art Institute of Chicago; furniture restoration at the Mies van der Rohe-designed Farnsworth House in Plano; and conserving wooden objects at Iowa's Cedar Rapids Museum of Art that were affected by flooding.

Conservation has been a lifelong passion, says Bernacki, who moved from his hometown of Jaslo, Poland, to Chicago when he was 18. "I grew up among the ruins of post-World War II," he says.