

MICHAEL SLANEY DESIGN

B E S P O K E F U R N I T U R E

A guide to commissioning furniture



'DoubleWrap' occasional table.

The best way to acquire a fine piece of handcrafted furniture is to commission it. The experience is exciting, and gives the purchaser an unrivalled opportunity to have a significant amount of involvement and input, whilst at the same time benefiting from expert guidance on structure and aesthetics. More and more people are becoming aware of this possibility. They are finding that it is not just the preserve of a wealthy few, but is an accessible way

of finding that special piece - perhaps that long dreamed of new dining table, a gift for a significant birthday, or a wedding present.

Surprisingly, commissioning Michael need not necessarily be more expensive than buying a good quality manufactured product, though the result will always be appreciated more

It is helpful to be able to convey as much information about your desired outcome as possible. In the simplest case this might be a variation on an existing piece from Michael's portfolio. Alternatively it may be possible for you to provide a sketch of your idea, but this is by no means essential. Any illustrations showing aspects



9 panel Wrap cabinet

MICHAEL SLANEY DESIGN

B E S P O K E F U R N I T U R E

that you are attracted to can feed the design process. These could be pages torn from magazines, photos, colour samples and even verbal descriptions – all are useful starting points. The key thing to remember is that this is a continuing dialogue, and that Michael will respond to your ideas.

Initially this is likely to be in the form of simple sketches, but as the idea develops and becomes more focused, it will be possible to see more accurate and advanced illustrations. If appropriate, samples, scale models and a written specification may also be presented.



Exchange of ideas.



Chopping lapped dovetails.

By this stage Michael should be able to generate a fairly accurate costing and a proposed time scale. If the commissioner is happy with all of this and decides to proceed, normal practice is for a deposit to be paid to confirm the agreement.

Michael encourages customers to visit his workshop whilst the project is underway.

All that remains is to sit back and enjoy the anticipation of completion of the commissioned work.

www.michaelslaneydesign.co.uk



'Black parchment' lamp table