



Home & Garden

A local focus on real estate, gardening & home improvement



Adding a layer of history

By NANCY WOODS
for The Tribune's
Home & Garden section

Inside his 1913 Four-square in Northeast Portland, CJ Hurley's hand-painted border of stylized white roses and silver raindrops encircles the Arts and Crafts/Art Nouveau dining room. The decorative border, also called a frieze, is accompanied by examples of Hurley's stained glass, metal work and custom-made wainscoting. Through a window, roses can be seen blooming in the side yard.

The result, Hurley says, is a "gesamtkunstwerk," a German word that means a "total

work of art," when everything works together to create a cohesive whole, a goal emphasized during the Arts and Crafts movement.

That cohesiveness is what Hurley and wife, Barbara Pierce, owners of CJ Hurley Century Arts, strive for when working with their clients. Their Portland Foursquare serves as both their home and as a showroom for their business, which specializes in custom-designed, hand-painted interiors.

Although much of the company's business involves color and design consulting, Hurley also sells his period-style paintings and designs,

everything from furniture to trim moldings.

But it's his one-of-a-kind friezes that truly set the company apart.

To create the custom borders, Hurley and Pierce work closely with each client to uncover specific motifs — based on a favorite architectural element or flower, perhaps — that can be worked into the frieze, making it unique yet personal.

Although it's Hurley who's the master Roycroft artist (a designation named after an Arts and Crafts community) and who can be found in the studio or on a ladder or scaffold, it's Pierce, with her back-

ground in the fashion industry and organizational skills, who understands how to fuse business with art.

Both partners have a strong interest in the art and architecture of the international Reform movements, which stretched from 1850 to 1950, although Hurley also sees himself as a modern-day artist.

His goal is to integrate his work seamlessly into its setting, "adding a sensitive layer of history to the property" and creating that "total work of art."

For information on CJ Hurley Century Arts, visit www.cjhurley.com, or call 503-234-4167.

■ Artsy couple specializes in custom friezes for interiors and uses own home as a comprehensive showroom.

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A custom frieze, stained glass, metal work and wainscoting come together to form a "total work of art" in this Portland Foursquare, a showroom for CJ Hurley Century Arts.



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CJ Hurley and Barbara Pierce, owners of CJ Hurley Century Arts



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