

Lantern Masters

This Established Lighting Company Combines Age Old Forging Techniques, Fine Materials And Twenty First Century Technology To Create Superior Fixtures

BY VANESSA KOGEVINAS

WALKING INTO LANTERN MASTERS' STUDIO

space in Westlake Village is like happening upon a hidden treasure of over one thousand stunning pieces of lighting.

For the last thirty one years Lantern Masters—a family business run by Jackie Olesker, her husband Stuart and their daughter Sharyn—have been designing and manufacturing high end lanterns, chandeliers, pendants and sconces that many of their clients say are the “antiques of tomorrow.” The non-corrosive materials that they use will withstand the test of time.

“For exterior fixtures we forge primarily in brass,” explains Jackie, “but we also use copper, bronze and stainless steel.” The same materials or a combination thereof are used for their interior fixtures, and one or more than three dozen standard finishes—from blacks to rusts to oil rubs—is hand applied to each fixture. “We’re very flexible,” says Sharyn. “The array of materials we use and can work with allows the customer to get the exact fixture that they want.” They further enhance their pieces using fine art bronze castings, Strass and rock crystals, art glass and even fabric.

“We can start with as little as a doodle on a napkin or a partial sketch from the client,” says Sharyn, who



TOP LEFT As part of Lantern Masters' manufacturing process, templates are made from full scale drawings for each element of a fixture's design. TOP RIGHT Metals are forged by hand in the Lantern Masters factory in Los Angeles. ABOVE Lantern Masters, established in Westlake, California, in 1978, is family-run by (from left to right) Jackie, Stuart and Sharyn Olesker. They have been selected as a major participant in Casa California, CALIFORNIA HOMES design house benefiting the Philharmonic Society of Orange County Youth Music Programs. Lantern Masters supplied all exterior lights and fixtures in the Casa Lounge. The design house opens October 13 through November 8, 2009. OPPOSITE 1) The lines and finish of the Amalfi fixture—adorning a Mediterranean style residence on the Newport coast—compliment the stair railing that they are paired with. 2) Designed for a New York City penthouse, the Slaven iron sconce deftly blends a variety of irons with different finishes—silver-leaf, gold-leaf and black. 3) The Ferguson's lantern fixture was chosen for the exterior of the Sarasota Opera House in Florida as part of their 2008 restoration. 4) A combination of casting and forging techniques—including lost wax casting employed for fine jewelry—are used to create the intensely detailed Euripedes with Tail wall sconce.






The Pacific Electric Torch fixture—a custom design for the 2001 historical restoration of the Pacific Electric Building in downtown Los Angeles into luxury Pacific Electric Lofts—has classic lines with modern tones.

oversees the manufacturing process, “and then it’s a matter of interpretation on my part to bring it to life.” They create a full scale working drawing with utmost detail being extremely careful to stay true to the drawing in the actual building stage. Their designs come to life in their Los Angeles based factory where a highly skilled team of over thirty craftsmen—sheet metal formers, spot welders, solderers, forgers, electricians, glassworkers—collaborate closely with Sharyn Olesker.

Having perfected the Old World style and replicating seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth century lighting, they are now incorporating more contemporary designs. “We are always making new product,” says Sharyn, who works tirelessly to cater to the precise needs of their clients—high-end architectural and interior design firms such as KAA and Finton Construction. Their pieces adorn residences across the country as well as restaurants, theme parks and hotels as large as the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

“We want to get it right the first time,” says Jackie, turning to technology when communicating with clients. “Webcams, our website, emailing pictures are all part of our process.” Through experience Lantern Masters has lived up to its name of expertly producing beautifully crafted and functional lighting from its inception through to its installation. 

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