Updating an Antique

How an Arts & Crafts hall stand was redesigned for the 21st century without compromising its character

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everal years ago, I came across a photo of an Arts and Crafts hall stand in a book on English interiors. I was struck by the bold bevels of the crown and the interplay of vertical and horizontal elements throughout the piece.

Recently, while looking through a lumber broker's inventory, I ran across a stack of curly white oak. The figure, rippled like a pre-Raphaelite beauty's hair, imme-

diately brought to mind the Arts and Crafts aesthetic of the era during which the original hall stand had been built. It was perfect for this early 20th-century piece.

The hall stand that inspired this piece featured umbrella stands flanking the central storage area. As delightfully English as that may have been, in the 21st-century

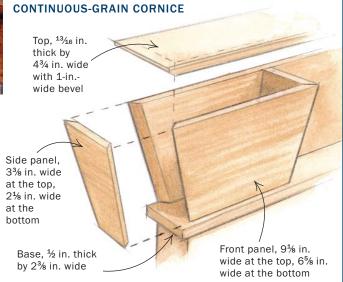


Capped for practicality. Storage compartments capped with Indiana limestone replace umbrella stands that appeared on the original.





Mitered corners allow thin stock to be used in making heavier-looking pieces. With this technique, the grain pattern is carried around all sides of the cornice.



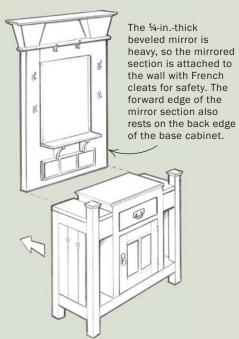
2½ in. **TRADITIONAL** 37½ in.-**LOOK WITH** A MODERN **APPROACH** Based on an early 20th-century piece, this hall stand was redesigned to increase the available table 28 in. surface by capping 24 in. the umbrella pockets with limestone. 5½ in. 4 in. 81½ in. Res 365/16 in. 32¼ in. 35½ in. 4 in. 17 in.

United States, relatively few people outside of urban areas use umbrellas. Still, I wanted to preserve the play between the different levels of the base that were integral to the piece's character.

I decided to enclose the umbrella-stand compartments and top them with a durable surface on which a person running out the door could place a cup of coffee while donning a hat or adjusting a scarf. For this surface I chose Indiana limestone because it's locally produced, affordable, and easily worked. To maintain the Edwardian character of the stand, I drew slatted side panels, incorporating a decorative cutout in period style. The side compartments can be used for storage or display, but at only 5½ in. wide, these areas are limited in their usefulness. I had considered enlarging the cabinet to make these areas more practical but abandoned the idea because it would have detracted from the hall stand's lovely proportions.

I designed my hall stand so that the mirror section fits against a wall, with the cabinet portion stepped forward slightly to accommodate a baseboard and shoe molding. The wooden top and side trim of the base cabinet end at the face of the mirror frame's bottom rail. It's a good idea to have a particular location in mind and to measure architectural moldings located there before finalizing this design detail. □

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15 in. -

32 in.