

hire him

# Brendan Jones

A green builder with a historic perspective

In a market inundated with brand-new eco-friendly products, Philadelphia's Greensaw Design & Build, a two-year-old firm, takes a historic approach to building green. Owner Brendan Jones's forte: repurposing architectural salvage. Greensaw regularly reclaims beautiful original materials from old churches, hotels—and, in one case, J.P. Morgan's library—to gently add graceful, authentic character to his clients' homes. Fitting yesterday's doors, window frames and floors into a 19th-century Rittenhouse manse or an old Chester County farmhouse fixer-upper isn't always easy, but Jones and his crew of artist-carpenters have become repurposing pros. Plus, he says, "We get a real thrill out of treasure-hunting." **409 Wallace Street, Philadelphia, 215-389-0786, greensawdesign.com.**



▲ I got the smoothing plane (left) at an antiques fair for \$12. My block plane (right) fits snugly into the palm of the hand and, given some time on Japanese stones, gets screaming sharp.



▲ This white Carrera marble was salvaged from the ballroom of the Divine Lorraine Hotel at Broad and Fairmount. Takes a bit of elbow grease to clean off a hundred years of grime, but the results are worth it. We use the marble for shower benches, as bathroom tile over radiant heat floors, and as baseboard.



▲ We've used this local maple and Southern yellow pinewood—originally the Union League's bowling alley—for coffee tables, kitchen counters, sink countertops and bars.



▲ This wood door pull might not be reusable, but we keep it around the shop because no one has the heart to get rid of it. The glass knob can be used fairly easily with today's locksets. It's from Restore. **3016 East Thompson Street, 215-634-3474, re-store-online.com.**



▶ Deconstructing these 19th-century bookshelves from J.P. Morgan's New York library taught us all how much we have to learn from the old-timers.

◀ This painted slate wainscot is an example of a treasure you might come across trolling around salvage stores. I found this at Provenance. **1610 Fairmount Avenue, 215-769-1817, phillyprovenance.com.**

