

## Local Lumber Transforms into Great Furniture

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From building wood cell towers, the business' direction has been redirected over the last 10 years toward furniture making because of demand from people who had to cut trees in their yard — as well as word of mouth. Ridings often partners with Hamilton Tree Service in Lafayette, a company that has a crane powerful enough to lift the thousand-pound logs that are cut. Then Urban Lumber fetches the tree and starts the milling process.

Once Urban Lumber has cut the boards they have to dry. Ridings says that the rule of thumb is that it takes a year per inch of thickness. It also depends on the species of timber, redwood drying a lot faster than walnut. "In fact everything dries faster than walnut," he adds with a smile. People store their own lumber. Ridings says that outside is fine, that rain is fine, but that sun is the enemy, and that you want air to get to it and dry it.

The variety of creations that can come from the lumber is limitless.

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*Bill Ridings shows a client a walnut piece with live edges for the table the client wants to give his son.*

*Photo Sophie Braccini*



*This single piece oak board that will eventually become a bar gets set to go through the sander.*

*Photo Sophie Braccini*