

News

F O R I M M E D I A T E R E L E A S E

New Business Owners See Bright Future for Handcrafted Lighting

IVORYTON CT -- Some could say sparks flew when three entrepreneurial people combined forces to grow a small but legendary lighting business, legendary at least in the world of providing handcrafted artistry for historic buildings, restoration and preservation projects.

Richard D. Scofield Historic Lighting has been re-lit, in a sense, under the new ownership of Jon and Doreen Joslow, a local Chester, CT couple with a keen sense of business. Jon and Doreen purchased the company in September 2006, from former owner Debbie Gilbert; who will continue to work for the company directing sales and design services. Together the three have formed an electrifying team that will continue the artisanal, handcrafted excellence begun over thirty years by the late Richard D. Scofield; a scholar of period lighting and a man passionate about quality, handmade products. But how does one take a business making antique lighting fixtures, by hand, to new heights and be profitable in a mass-produced world?

“There’s this belief that manufacturing is dead in America and that you can’t compete without outsourcing to less expensive labor markets with cheap materials,” explains Jon. “What we make cannot be replicated in mass quantities by stamping presses and robotic welding. Every piece made is carefully crafted by hand in the New England tradition. There are no shortcuts to the care necessary to craft heirloom, quality fixtures. Ours are solid, hand-cut pieces that are meticulously made and built to withstand the sands of time. To most of our customers, beyond the practical element of illumination, each piece is appreciated as works of art. Our patinas are simply beautiful!”

And works of art they are. Each piece is hand-cut, sanded, painted or stained based on authentic patterns from the 18th and 19th centuries. The result of this handiwork are rich, solid, sumptuous pieces that beg a place of prominence inside the home like a stunning chandelier above a dining table or luminous lanterns adorning the exterior of a home with a welcome glow.

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Richard D. Scofield Historic Lighting Company/continued...

Doreen explains, “we found through our research and personal experience, that when people restore or build period homes they want fixtures that complement the style of their homes or buildings in terms of design, quality and attention to detail which we’re able to do directly from our workshop in Ivoryton and with a level of care unmatched in a mass-produced setting.”

“In fact,” Doreen adds, “many of our pieces adorn residents’ homes all over the country and of course, many of our fixtures can be seen gracing the exteriors of commercial or municipal buildings right here in Chester, Essex and Deep River.”

Having had successful corporate careers, Jon and Doreen set aside the world of big business to focus their talents on growing a smaller company.

“Doreen and I believe the future looks bright for handmade, quality products,” Jon explains. “There’s a time-lessness and sense of connection with something handmade that just doesn’t translate with something mass-produced and folks who love quality can see and feel the difference.”

You can’t help but feel the energy and enthusiasm radiating from Jon and Doreen, it’s infectious and you get the sense that their electrifying personalities are the perfect fit for a lighting company. Jon and Doreen are also well versed in antique homes and restoration having lived and slowly restored their own antique colonial home in Chester.

Since the purchase, Jon, Doreen, Debbie and Glen Dona, master craftsman, have successfully transformed an old, dingy, workspace into an inviting and stylish lighting showroom and workshop, and they have been busy making and fulfilling orders of exquisite chandeliers, lanterns and gorgeous wall-mounted sconces. The showroom is now open to the public by appointment or by chance and is located in a landmark Ivoryton building that Doreen says used to be a Trolley Stop. And with its new incarnation, this is one stop you don’t want to miss.

Richard D. Scofield Historic Lighting custom designs and markets handcrafted, authentic reproductions of period lighting fixtures dating from the 18th and 19th centuries. Founded in 1976 by Richard D. Scofield, a master craftsman and scholar in the field of historic lighting, the company originated as a small workshop located in Chester, CT. Today the company is located in Ivoryton, CT and continues Richard’s commitment and dedication to producing beautifully handcrafted lighting products using premium materials and time-honored techniques. You can learn more by visiting, www.ScofieldHistoricLighting.com or call for an appointment 860.767.7032 at their showroom located at 104 Main Street, Ivoryton, CT.