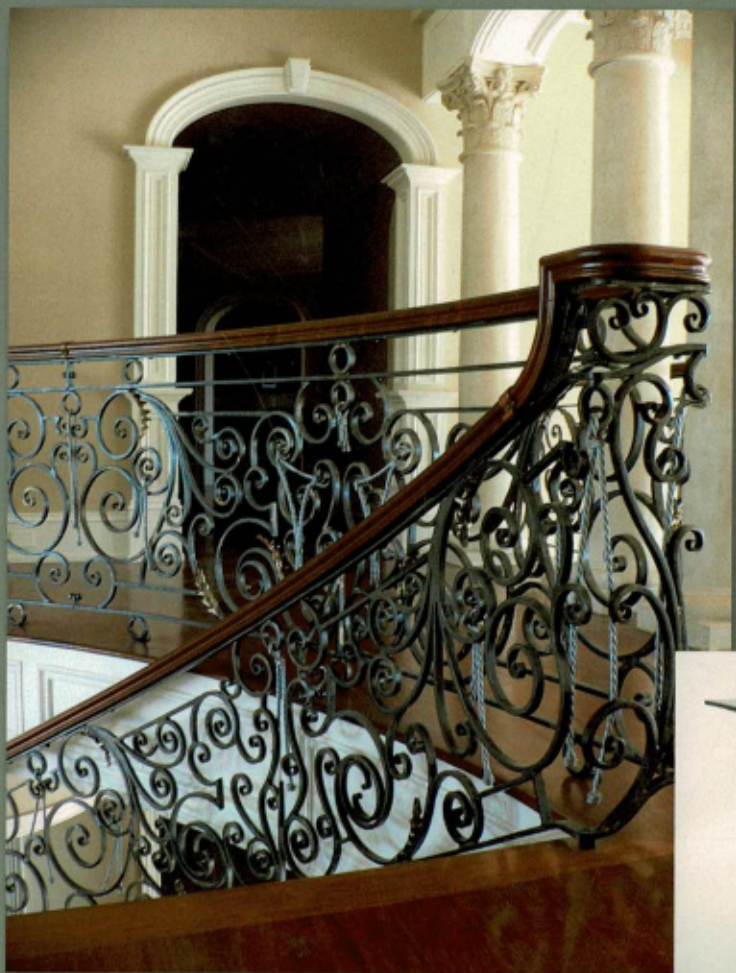


Ironwork Today 3

Inside & Out



Schiffer LTD

Jeffrey B. Snyder

Sean Ahern

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Artist's Statement

Growing up in Charleston, South Carolina, I have been surrounded my entire life by Lowcountry landscapes like marsh grass, Spanish moss, and architecture steeped in hundreds of years of history. Ironwork is an integral element in many of the historical homes here, and I've always admired our celebrated blacksmiths like Philip Simmons for carrying on the design traditions of this beautiful city. I definitely draw inspiration for my designs from my surroundings, and enjoy working with clients who have a connection to the natural elements of the Lowcountry, like cattails, grasses, and palm fronds, and want these things worked into their designs.

I derive so much of my creative energy from organic landscapes of all kinds, not just in the Lowcountry. I get ideas and inspiration by considering the texture, growth, and movement of all life forms and nature, like how the wind moves through the grass, the ebb and flow of the ocean, and the balance of rolling hills.

Individual Artwork

Bar Lamps

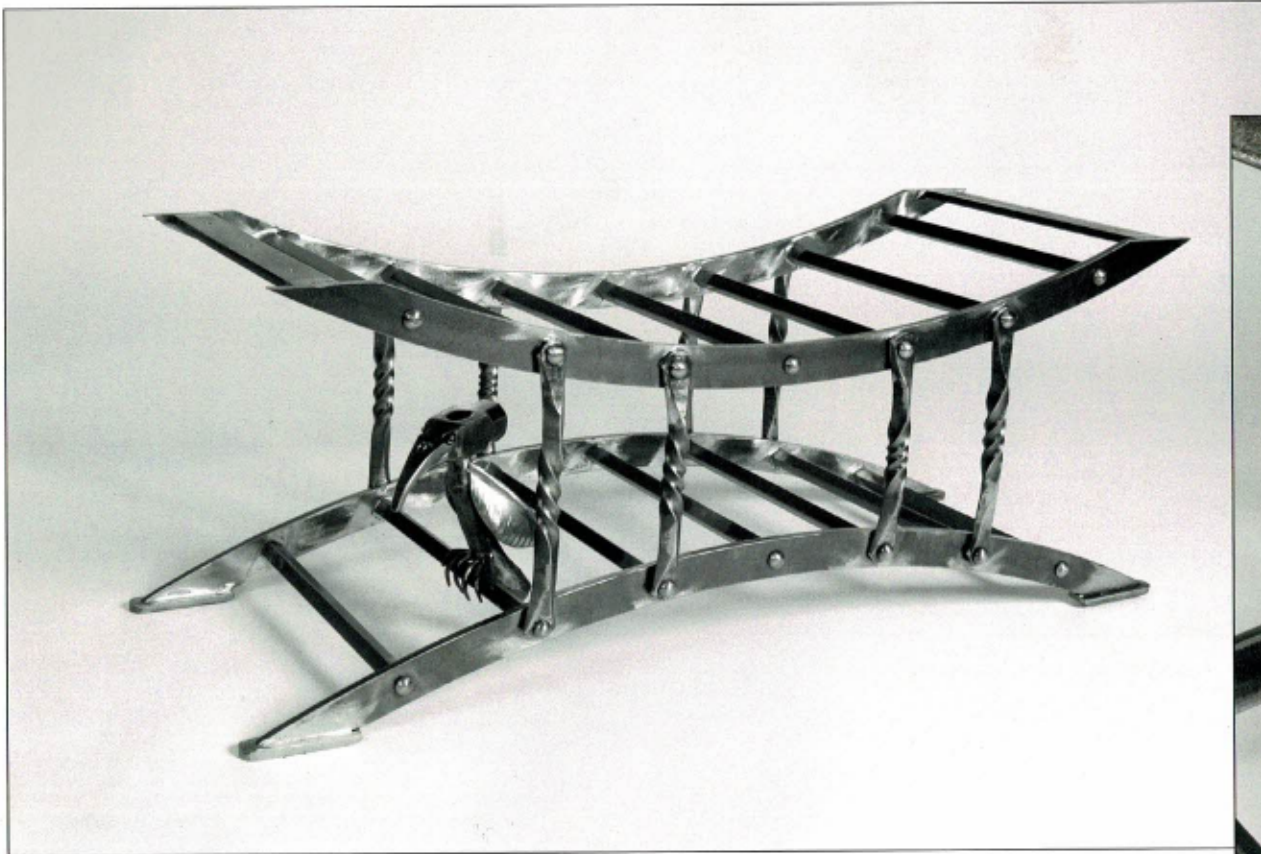
Lighting designed for the Hilton Resort on Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. The lights have an acrylic defuser.



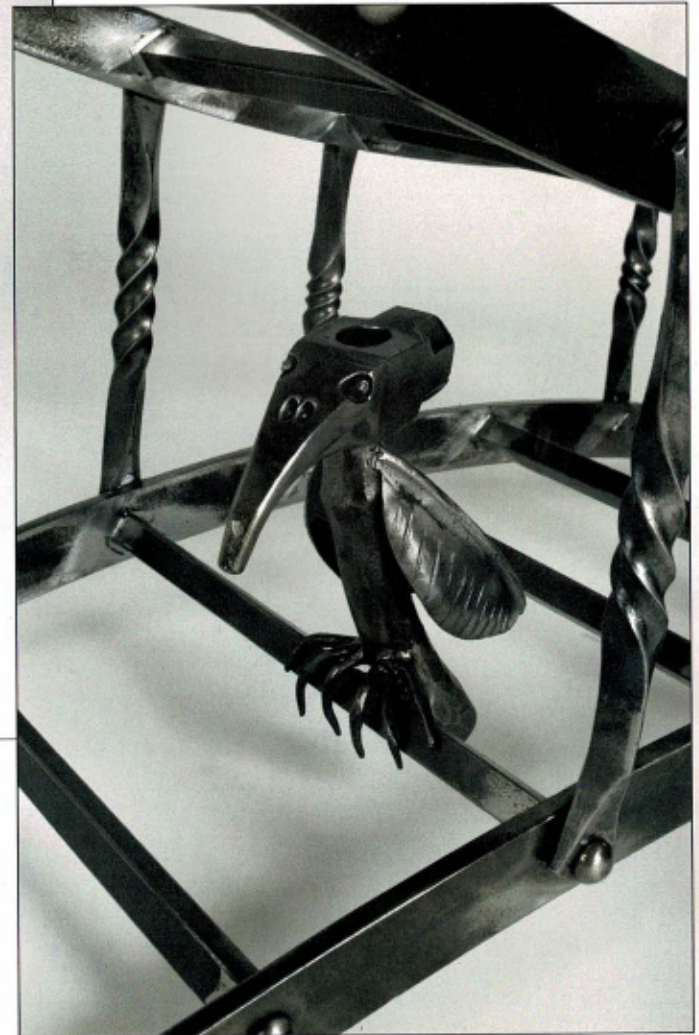
Sean Ahern. Bar Lamps. Forged and fabricated. Steel and wire mesh.

Table Base

I designed and built this table base as a donation to Habitat for Humanity, for an art show titled "Bird House." This base was all forged steel, with the bird forged out of an old hammer I had in the shop.



Sean Ahern. Table Base. 2006. Forged. Steel.



Bronze Fountain



Sean Ahern. Bronze Fountain. 2006. Forged, formed, and fabricated.
Trellis: solid silicon bronze; bowl/base: bronze sheet.

Sculpture

I was asked to come up with something that the people of the Lowcountry of South Carolina could relate to. I was born here in Charleston. I grew up seeing old women weaving sweetgrass baskets on the side of the road and in the streets. When they start a basket, it starts off as a fan of grass. This sculpture presents an abstract depiction of the beginning of a sweetgrass basket. Unfortunately, the project had been put off at the time of this writing. I forged this piece on a much smaller scale at the end of 2009.



Sean Ahern. Sculpture. 2009. Forged. Steel. Outdoors sculpture for a large public space in Charleston, South Carolina.

Fire Basket

The client was looking for something elegant for their fireplace. They wanted andirons. They also wanted to keep the fireplace looking clean.



Sean Ahern. Fire Basket. 2009. Forged. Steel.

Fire Screen

This was designed for a client whose home is among the South Carolina marshlands.



Sean Ahern. Fire Screen. 2010. Forged. Steel.