



A Piece of Cleveland turns the city's history into historic furniture
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Materials from buildings like Adelstein's Pharmacy are being turned into classic furniture

As the housing development chairman for the St. Clair Superior Development Corporation and all around lover of history, Chris Kious was sickened to see Cleveland's old buildings demolished, their remnants sent to landfills. So Kious, along with childhood friend Ezra Taxel, decided to launch A Piece of Cleveland.

Taxel and a few other artists use lumber, flooring, and other materials from old buildings to create new tables, chairs, and frames. "The idea is that there's a story behind every piece of the wood we use," Taxel explains...

Each piece of furniture, which sell for anywhere between \$20 and \$1,000, comes with a "re-birth certificate" that tells the new owner where the material was recovered, and any other interesting tales that may have been unearthed from the structure. They've created a desk set from the oak floor that once lined the historic Adelstein's Pharmacy, and tables made from the marble floor of St. Josaphat's Cathedral. Taxel has a showcase room full of new designs.

"It's fun to turn deconstructed pieces into things that people want," he says. It's also a pretty cool way of preserving Cleveland history. – Rebecca Meiser