



degree instead, which landed him a career as a London-based design engineer for Ford Motor Company. But Muggleton's itch to follow his childhood dream only got stronger, and six years ago, it got the best of him. He quit his job in the U.K., and he and his wife moved to Colorado, where Muggleton also could pursue his passion for skiing. (After growing up skiing in the French and Swiss Alps, his family now frequents Vail and Keystone.) He did some research and discovered that for the

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same amount of money he would spend to go to trade school, he could buy a woodshop and begin his business immediately. "If you want to do something, I believe you should just do it," he says.

For the next few years, Muggleton built his business and honed his skills. He experimented with a centuries-old technique of bending wood, in which thin layers are joined together, placed in a mold and inserted into a vacuum press, which applies four tons of pressure to slowly change the piece's shape. Muggleton's curves resemble those he finds in nature—ocean waves, bent stalks of tall grass or the graceful turns made by a skier. Those curves—now his design trademark—have won him many awards, such as the 2001 and 2002 "Best of Show" award at the Boulder Art Fair, and landed his furniture in galleries in Vail, Beaver Creek and Stowe, Vt., as well as in craft shows across the country.

As for that chest of drawers, it now sits in his 2-year-old son Maxwell's room—reminding him every day not to chicken out. ♦

See more of Muggleton's work at his website, andrewmuggleton.com.

GRAVITATIONAL PULL Muggleton designs his furniture to use gravity, rather than toxic glue, to hold the pieces together.

Curves in the Road

An auto engineer takes a drastic turn and makes his childhood passion his new profession. ♦ By Claire Fisher

ANDREW MUGGLETON LABORED IN HIS WOODSHOP in Boulder, Colo., for four weeks, perfecting a chest of drawers made from African *muhare* wood, ebonized oak and glass. He painstakingly designed the piece with graceful lines that mimic the path a skier might take down a mountain. When he finally finished it, he discovered he had "accidentally" made its shipping crate too small. "I said, 'That's it, I'm keeping it,'" he says in his thick British accent.

Muggleton pours so much of his energy, creativity and passion into each piece—whether it's a chest of drawers, a coffee table or a bed—he sometimes finds it hard to let go. "It's like giving away not only a chunk of my lifetime but an entire thought process," he says.

The craftsman learned his trade as a child from his father, who made simple household items in the garage of their London home. Early on, possessing only basic carpentry skills, Muggleton discovered he had a talent for transforming storage boxes and tables into uniquely artful and exotic designs. But when the time came to go to college, he "chickened out" of pursuing his passion and got an engineering



Serenity Now

After a beating on the hill, yoga can feel as good as a massage. Don't know your ashtanga from your kundalini? Give it a go at these yoga-friendly spots.

WHERE Big Sky, Mont. > **Alpenglow Traveling Spa and Yoga**

Taught in the 2,500-square-foot Red Raven Art Gallery in Big Sky, with its wall of windows that overlook the mountains, this free-form yoga class focuses on breathing work and adapting to the altitude.

COST \$12; private classes, which can be taught in your condo or hotel room, are \$75 per hour; mats provided.

CONTACT 406-995-4663; alpenglowspa.com

WHERE Snowbird, Utah > **The Cliff Lodge**

Daily yoga classes scheduled around the ski day focus on stretching, warming up for the slopes or cooling down after a mountain workout. Located in the Cliff Spa, the studio's floor-to-ceiling windows provide a view of the Wasatch range, reflected in a wall of mirrors.

COST A single class is free with spa access; a \$20 day pass includes a class and use of the spa's sauna and steam rooms; mats provided.

CONTACT 801-933-2225; cliffspa.com

WHERE Lake Tahoe, Calif. > **Tahoe Yoga and Wellness Center**

This full-service studio offers seven styles of yoga. Skiers should try the Restorative class, emphasizing relaxing and strengthening postures, and the Yin class, offered in the evenings, to promote flexibility after a day on the mountain.

COST \$15, \$30 for three classes; mat rentals, \$1

CONTACT 530-550-8333; tahoe yoga.com

WHERE Beaver Creek, Colo. > **The Ritz-Carlton Bachelor Gulch**

The hotel's spa offers Power Yoga and Anusara Yoga, along with winter conditioning classes inside its studio, where two sets of French doors open to sweeping views of the valley.

COST \$15; mats provided

CONTACT 800-241-3333; ritzcarlton.com

WHERE Smugglers' Notch, Vt. > **Mountain Massage Center**

Focusing on teaching skiers how to breathe, stretch and strengthen to enhance performance on the slopes, the resort's Yoga for Everybody class is just that—suited to all levels.

COST \$15; mats provided

CONTACT 800-451-8752; smuggs.com —*Claire Fisher*