riental treasures or flea market finds

Restoration of Chinese antiques is fast becoming a specialty for Acacia Furniture because the opportunity to learn the art is so limited to the U.S. craftsman.

By Loraine McClish staff writer

Tim Korzan, who once designed and built custom-made furniture exclusively, and Dave Rybicki, one-time owner of Frankin Country Workshop, teamed up about a year ago to form what has

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erican made wicker of highest quali-ty. Hand woven in California and available in your choice of fab-ric and frame finish.

itist stuff."

The two, who are craftsmen and artislans in their own right, hold sway over Acacia Furniture, a combination office manufacturing plant and refurbishing workshop at 247770 Crestview in Farmington Hills.

While Rybicki might spend several hundred hours casting molds to restore the bas relief on an \$150,000 ancient Chinese screen, he says he gives as much care to a three-drawer maple chest a client may have picked up for \$50 in a flea market.

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raftsman.

"There are no schools that teach it, to books on the subject to speak of," tybicki said.

"I have read everything that's avail-

If you can are and everything that's available, and it wasn't much. "You just team by doing, and I was lucky enough to get a chance to learn." That chance came from a collector of Oriental pieces. His skills have expanded to duplicating the intriaceles of Chinese brush work and figuring out the mitering of a circular table top he called his Japanese puzile.

"Basic cratismanship mus across the board," Korzan said what where is all good cratismanship or it was the way the said good cratismanship or it was the board, it was the said of the good of the first the work of the good of the first of the first of the pieces we've gotten here, I swear, must have come from the Forbidden City."

AN INCREDIBLE amount of re-search is put into minute details to re-store pieces that come to Acacia in what Korzan called "incredible, dread-ful condition."

The two have become adept at spott-ing almost immediately a piece that has been 'gypsied together.'

They use the term to describe a piece of furniture that has been restored with another kind of wood used to replace the damaged original. The gypsied piece then is finished with lacquer or

Tim Korsan works on an Oriental base stand, at left, that will be refitted with a marble top. It was probably used in mid-19th century China, even though its bail and claw feet are of European Influence. Chinese chair is waiting for its next application of wax, although it probably has about 100 already on it. Rosewood table in already on it. Rosewood table in front, once a Chinese altar table, will be steel wooled rather than stripped so it will retain its pati-

paint to make it appear the same as the original.
To correct that, they "canabalize."
This means they take rare woods from pieces that cannot be restored and save them to use when that kind of wood is needed to make a piece or part for another item that can be salvaged.
"Whether it's inlaid metals, mother

of pearl, marble or rare woods, we have a source for them all," Rybicki said.

As for waxes and paints, the two have literally hundreds of formulas, some of which they've devised them-

The final results have in many cases been unusual and produced rare show pieces of museum quality.

HELP FOR the partners is hard to

come by for no other reason than that what they are doing is so unusual.

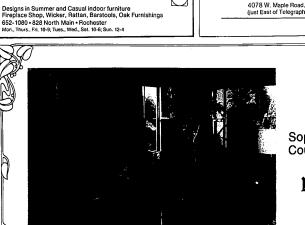
"We supervise constantly and continuously," Korzan said. "After all, we're working on some one's very prize and very special piace, and most likely a very rare piec.

In another section of Acacia Furniture, craftsman work on custom-during, craftsman work on custom-during, and prize a portion of the business.

Please turn to Page 5A

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