

## MICHAEL JUDE RUSSO – FURNIQUE

I call my functional design pieces “Furnique” (New York Times Home Section – Dec. 31,1987)  
The design concept was inspired in me by a number of influences including Art Nouveau, Art Deco and my realization and appreciation of organic form and development in nature. The goal is to create functional pieces that appear to have “grown” instead of being built or made. Furnique exhibits characteristics found in living things. Parts are joined looking as though they would move or fold (visually kinetic) and in some instances they actually do.

Metamorphosis in the natural world is represented in a room collection where the functioning pieces (chairs, sofas, tables, lamps, etc.) are different stages of a unique design.

Furnique pieces offer a sculptural view from any angle – there is no true back or front.

Elements of function such as adjustment, storage and lighting may be incorporated in the design just as systems are incorporated in living organisms.