

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Heritage Metalworks Wins the 2022 Palladio Award for Commercial Craftsmanship

National award recognizes outstanding achievement in traditional design.

DOWNINGTOWN, PA, April 20, 2022 – Heritage Metalworks, a metal fabrication shop, foundry, blacksmith, and copper shop specializing in signature lighting, period correct hardware, and architectural metalwork, is honored to receive the 2022 Palladio Award for Commercial Craftsmanship. This annual award, produced by Traditional Building, recognizes outstanding achievement in traditional design.

For over 20 years, the Palladio Awards has recognized work that enhances the beauty of the built environment through creative interpretation and adaptation of classical and traditional design. The 21st annual competition recognized 14 firms, both in the commercial and residential sectors.

On April 11th, Heritage Metalworks was named as the 2022 Commercial Craftsmanship award winner for a project known as “Fair Lane: Home of Clara & Henry Ford Lighting Reproduction” – the 31,000-square-foot Dearborn, Michigan estate of legendary Henry Ford. Since 2014 a comprehensive program of reinterpretation has taken place to recreate the home, including key lighting fixtures.

In late 2015, Heritage Metalworks was recommended by curators at Winterthur Museum and carefully selected to reproduce the lighting fixtures throughout the music room, library, billiard room, and pool of Fair Lane. With the original fixtures missing, professional archived photos were used to create accurate reproductions of the original lighting. Unfortunately, these photographs omitted the refined details. Along with pictures, the design team ingeniously scaled off the room and referenced millwork, molding, plaster work and other key elements to obtain approximate dimensions of the fixtures. Concept sketches, CAD drawings, 2D cut outs, printed patterns and 3D mock-ups were created to produce accurate sizing and proportions. Investigating metal finishes and fabrication processes from the period influenced production to successfully reconstitute the estate's finest fixtures.

“This project stands apart from any other project we’ve done,” said Matt White, Owner of Heritage Metalworks. “When you’re reproducing things, details get lost. We only had period photos to go by so there was a lot of back and forth in the design phase. We wanted everything to be accurate and we refused to cut corners.” White and his team spent five years and close to 3,400 hours reproducing the lighting fixtures.

- Wall sconces in the music room were hand sculpted and molded using the traditional lost wax/investment process. The parts were meticulously faux painted to look like mahogany, using specialized techniques, multiple coats, and 24K solid gold leaf accents.
- The most challenging portion of the project was the billiard room. The archive photos of the unusually long chandelier were shown at an angle, making it extremely complicated to scale. After over a year of working out dimensions and researching finishes from that period, the fixtures were



sculpted, molded, cast, assembled, and finished. Once installed and photographed, the chandelier miraculously hangs at the exact spot.

- Finally, without an original fixture, just a glass globe, twelve wall fixtures in the pool room were hand sculpted into detailed patterns, cast in solid brass, and assembled with glass globes.

By December 2020 all the handcrafted reproduction lighting fixtures were accurately completed and installed. The estate is still being transformed by the nation's top craftspeople and manufacturers, with hopes to have everything finished by late 2023.

This is the first national award for Heritage Metalworks, who originally opened doors in 2000 as an exclusive restoration shop. Projects with some of the most elite artifact dealers in the US were the gateway to current product offerings and expertise. With the 2018 Trumbauer Award for Architectural Arts/Craftsmanship and now the 2022 Palladio Award for Commercial Craftsmanship Award, Heritage Metalworks is excited for the future.

About Heritage Metalworks:

Heritage Metalworks is a distinguished foundry, blacksmith shop, and metal fabricator that specializes in creating signature lighting, period correct hardware, and architectural metalwork. Since 2001, Heritage Metalworks has provided superior concept design, construction logistics, prototype development and the highest quality handcrafted pieces to the most knowledgeable architects, designers, and general contractors in the country. Partnerships include prestigious landmarks such as the Capitol Building, Chrysler Museum, Valley Forge National Park, Winterthur Museum, and Fair Lane: Home of Clara and Henry Ford.

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