

the Vision behind

Slightly Twisted Spoons

Who is Master Designer Paul Mohally Renk, B.Sc.?



Paul, a member of the Jubilee House Community, was born in Ireland and has been designing and making furniture in Nicaragua since 2001. Before coming to Nicaragua, he taught furniture making at a technical college in Ireland following an apprenticeship making high quality commissioned furniture at one of the best workshops in England, [Street Farm Furniture](#) where a number of his pieces received Guild Marks. Paul studied furniture design, building, and production for four years at Ireland's renowned Letterfrack Furniture College in County Galway. After coming to Nicaragua, Paul initially worked with a small start-up furniture cooperative at the [CDCA](#), making commissioned furniture. Without the necessary background in both tropical hardwoods and business development, and without steady clientele, the cooperative was not able to be commercially competitive and was not able to continue past its initial start-up phase. Paul then spent two years designing upscale furniture for an existing furniture company in Managua and acquiring knowledge



of Nicaraguan hardwoods and developing clientele. His artistry and skill encouraged them to move in new directions, particularly through the [One Tree Project](#), designed to publicize the fragility of Nicaragua's rain forest and creative, efficient wood use. He has now built and equipped a workshop that is offering [Slightly Twisted Spoons](#)* as a start-up product in hopes that the production of this single line of kitchen utensils will guarantee a steady income for the workshop before expanding to larger and more difficult furniture pieces. In addition to running the workshop and training carpenters, Paul has worked as a consultant to the World Wildlife Federation in sustainable furniture production. When he's not in a workshop, he's juggling and working with visiting delegations at the [CDCA](#).



What is the design vision?

About the design of [Slightly Twisted Spoons](#), Paul says,

"I see wood and its end products in a different way from most woodworkers. Most wooden products are created using straight lines and that's because machines cut the lines and designers limit themselves in their creativity to those lines. When I see beautiful wood used for an ugly design or worst of all, uncomfortable furniture, I think it's such a shame, such a waste of materials and labor and a disappointment for the user. We are the end users of furniture and accessories and yet our bodies don't have a straight line in them. So when I see a straight-backed chair or sharp edges on corners, I am already uncomfortable even before I use it."

[About the One Tree Project...](#)

[Currently available products...](#)

For further information, please contact [Slightly Twisted Spoons](#)...

[Link to Center for Development in Central America](#)

*All Slightly Twisted Spoon designs are the property of the CDCA / Jubilee House Community, Inc.