

Skaneateles

LIVING



Artist renovating Spafford schoolhouse

Decorative artist, Heather Bruno-Sears, combines her love of well-wrought work and life itself to create an endless repertoire of clever visual effects.

Specializing in hand-wrought surface design since 1999, Heather's portfolio features a myriad of concepts for interior decor including exquisite faux finishes, ornamental ceilings, Skimstone decorative concrete, etched and reverse gilded glass, antique mirror patinas, faux wood marquetry, heirloom painted furniture, cabinetry, moldings, murals and works on canvas.

Currently, Bruno-Sears is renovating a circa 1814 stone schoolhouse in Spafford, N.Y. The schoolhouse dates back to the early 1800s original settlements in the Spafford area near the south east end of Skaneateles Lake.

Constructed from locally quarried blue limestone and hand-hewn beams, it served as a bucolic one-room schoolhouse for more than 130 years until the formation of the Skaneateles School District in the 1940s.

Abandoned for several decades, it was in dire straits when Heather discovered it while taking her beloved grandfather for a leisurely Sunday drive around the lake.

"It was a little historical gem near ruins. All overgrown with four crumbling stone walls, broken windows, a huge hole in the roof, and a dirt floor," she said. "Not only did I want to salvage the original Spafford District No. 1 Schoolhouse for sentimental reasons, I saw the potential it had to be an English cottage style artisan retreat, studio and decorative arts showroom."

An open house celebration is to be announced.

Heather Bruno-Sears Decorative Artist

Specializing In Hand Wrought Surface Design

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