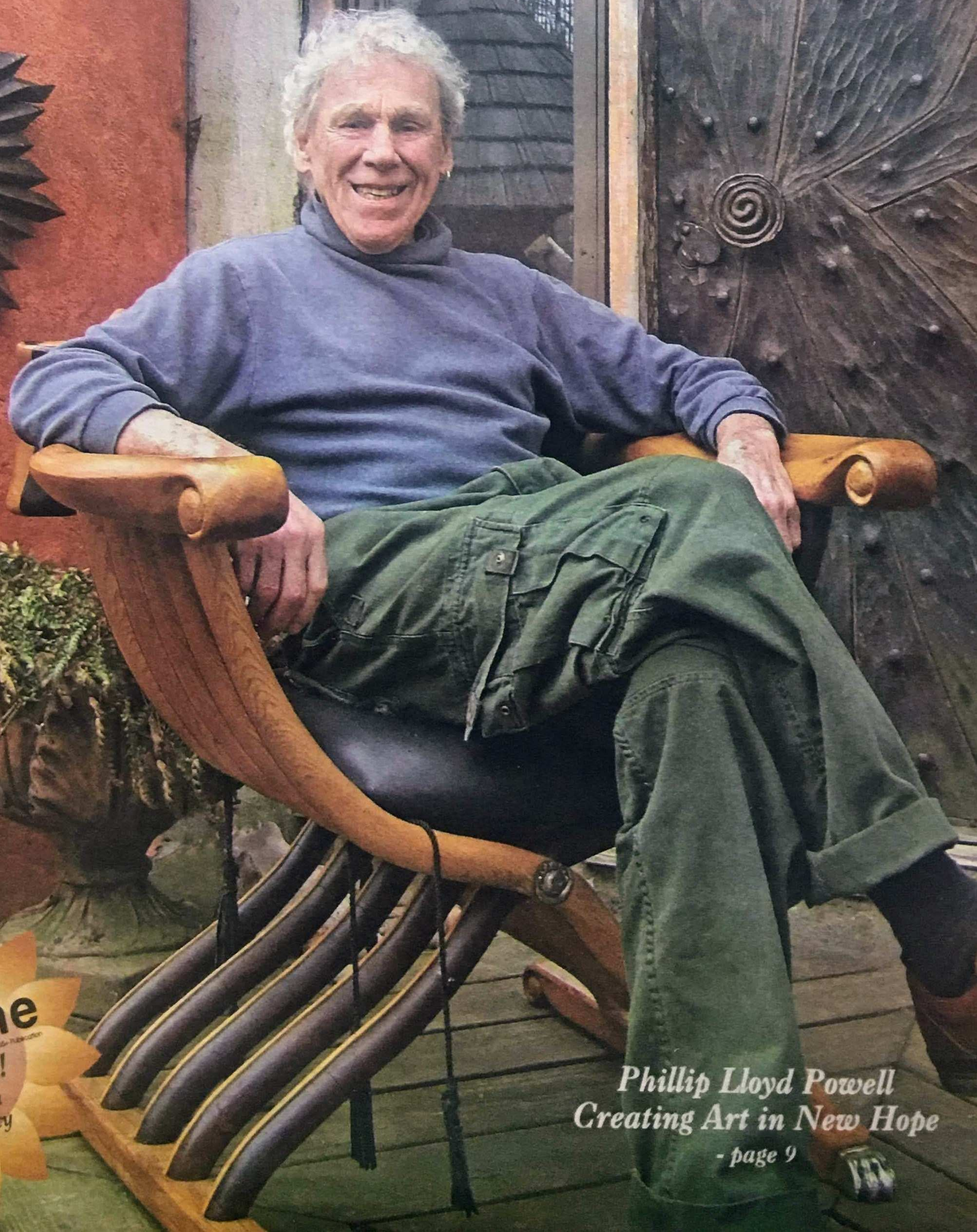


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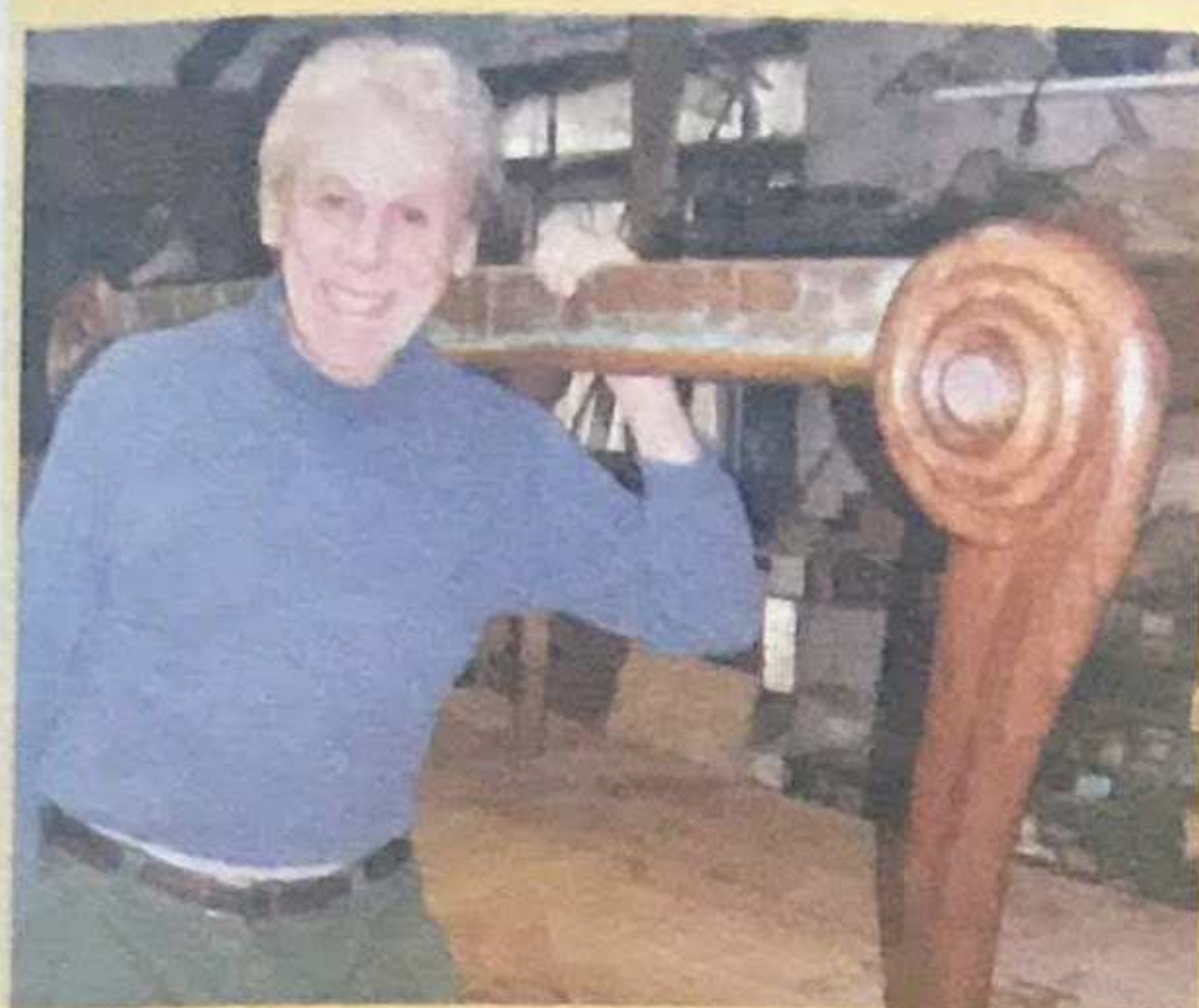
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*Phillip Lloyd Powell
Creating Art in New Hope*
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Bright Days and Starry Nights: Phillip Lloyd Powell's Story

them in my huge window display and be struck. I didn't know it, but I was one of the leading sellers in the country."

Then along came a young man, art school educated as a craftsman, who asked Powell if he could show some of his pieces at Powell's shop. The two forged a friendship, working side by side, and shared the New Hope showroom for ten years. The craftsman, a skilled silversmith who learned to work with other metals under Powell's tutelage, was Paul Evans, who went on to become an internationally recognized metal furniture designer.

Together, the two artists exhibited in New York at the illustrious American House in 1961. It was the turning point in Powell's career, taking him from artisan to star status.

"The response was tremendous. It wasn't the same afterward."

Pair of New Hope Club Chairs by Phillip Lloyd Powell, just posted on an NY online auction, starting at \$22,000.



Despite the offers to work for furniture manufacturers and other designers including General Motors, Powell has stayed true to himself, working independently. He had several employees under his wing for a time but found that he did not want to be in the business of making furniture, but rather in creating art.

"I've been very fortunate that I've never had to do anyone else's design," Powell shared. "I fall over myself to do the creative. It's the opposite for me than it is for others; I don't crave stability. I defy convention. I just can't replicate anyone's work. I have to create."

Powell begins his work with sketches, often drawing on inspiration from unique things he's seen in far away lands during his extensive travels. He uses pri-

marily walnut because of malleability; carving the wood as a sculptor carves stone. Intertwining the walnut and other woods with complementary stones and

metals, Powell gradually shapes and reshapes his furniture into sheer works of contemporary art. At the age of 87, Powell continues to work in his studio on commissioned furniture, about three or four pieces a year. He is currently creating a table base for a French client to the tune of \$4,000. His hallmark craftsmanship has earned him

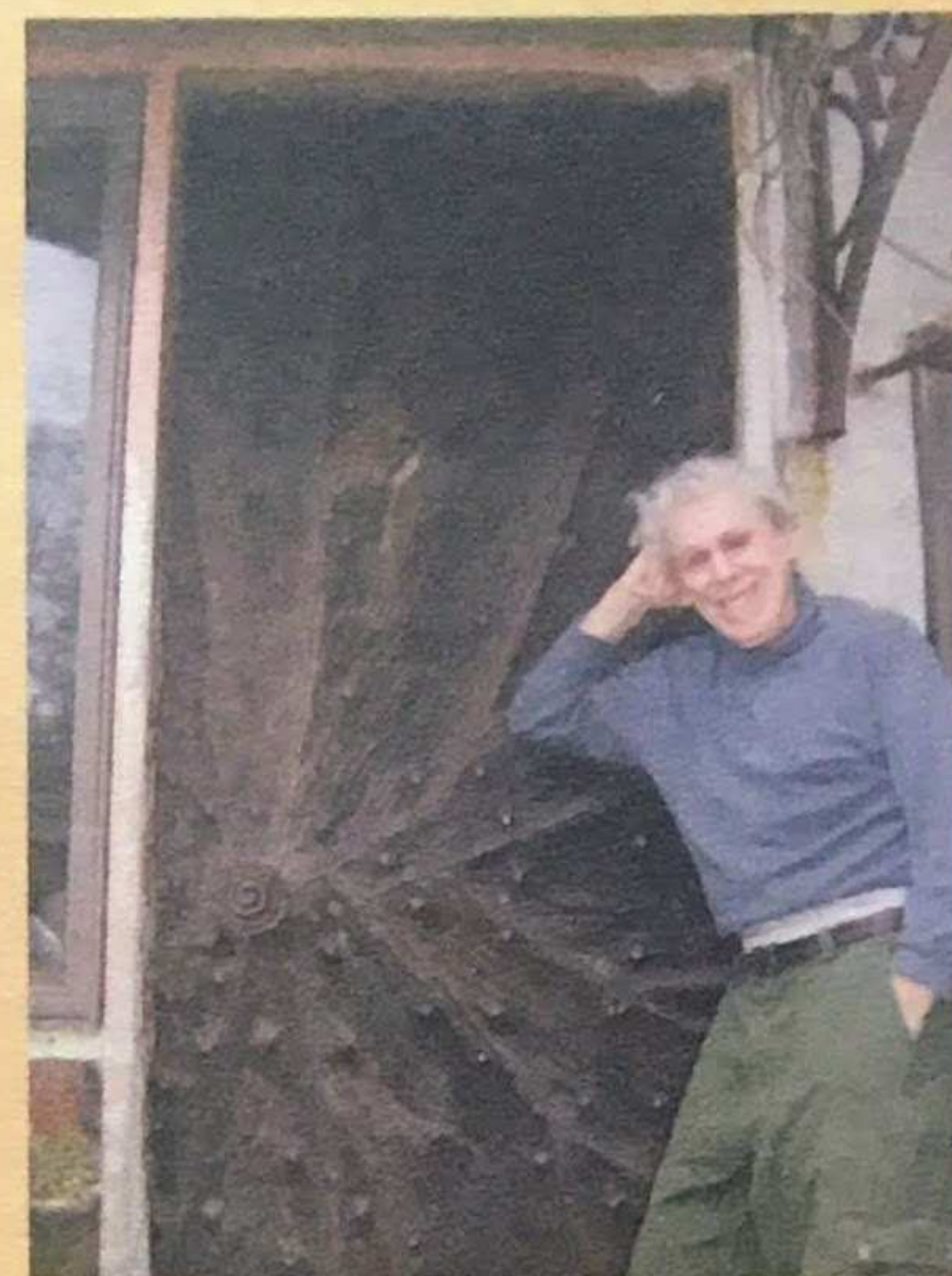
not only prestige but also a steady following, many of whom have been clients for decades.

"The nicest part of it all is that at the end of the day, I'm making something that people want, not what they need."

Inspiration for his work comes from "out of nowhere," says Powell, mostly from his travels three months a year, which he has been doing for 50+ years, often unplanned but always full of adventure. "I've been to all the Mediterranean countries, all of Europe, the North African countries, and it just goes on."

Powell's favorite destination? "Italy. I'm sure I've been in and out of Italy 100 times. You see, I'm a museum freak! I would rather go to a museum than eat. The museums and the food in Italy are unmatched. When I'm in Italy, I also go to Sicily for a month. The country is all about art, in everything they do."

Museums and good food aside, what



Powell most enjoys about travel is the opportunity to seek out the unusual. One such experience was when Powell slept in the magnificent temple at Abu Simbel in Egypt with friends he met from all over the globe during his journey. Another: Powell found himself in a remote town in China with no one able to speak English. "These are experiences you never forget. You realize how unique you are."

Seeking out the unusual, for Powell, also means taking note of design features unfamiliar to Americans. "I love doorways, and in Morocco, for example, I may see an intricately carved doorway that is so welcoming. Here, we usually have ugly, plain doors. But there, the door says 'I want the person to see something interesting first.' You are already welcomed before the door opens."

Such a door is the type of inspiration that propelled Powell to build his current home, a sort of three-story tower, which he built alone. Truly alone. At the age of 62, Powell dug the foundation, built the structure, ran the electric and plumbing, laid the roof, and of course, adorned his home with elaborate carvings and personality beyond belief. "If someone handed me a piece of lumber, I'd ask them to put it down. Then, I'd hoist it up. It became an obsession. It was like building a pyramid. It was truly my creation."

The home's unique features abound, from the carved front door (photo above), to each room, on each level, culminating in a storybook-like loft with Powell's bed nestled near the pinnacle of the tower, just below a pale blue dome adorned with golden stars. It's easy to see that for Phillip Lloyd Powell – the easy going, contemporary design maverick and star – bright days always end in starry nights.



Intricate wood carvings and contemporary design are hallmarks of Powell's work.