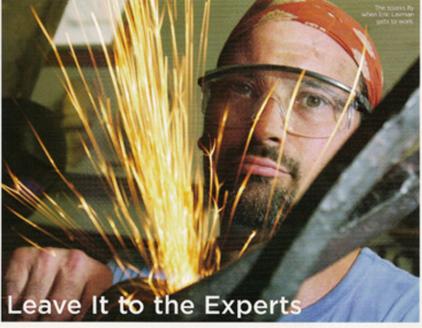
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Artistic metalworker Eric David Laxman does wonders, creating works that can be both decorative and functional. Laxman, who says he's "a lunatic about returning phone calls," specializes in custom furniture, railings, sculpture, and decorative metal-hangings. He has fashioned custom entry-tables, backsplashes, mirrors, coffee tables, and even a dining-room table with eight matching chairs. One of his recent projects was updating the interior of a Colonial home by replacing its wood railings with contemporary, welded-metal ones. He studied sculpting, drawing, and printmaking at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. HIRE HIM 55 W. Railroad Ave., Bldg. Four:

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