



Local company turns Cleveland's history green

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CLEVELAND -- They make a living while making a difference. APOC, or A Piece of Cleveland, takes the city's history and turns it green.

Eco-friendly is what they are. Furniture is what they build. And it's the perfect combination of passion that makes this work.

"It's sort of an adventure. You feel almost like Indiana Jones," says Chris Kious, the CEO of APOC.

APOC is made up of four guys with one mission: To reduce, reuse and rebuild. "I call it urban spelunking. It's like going into an old cave and you're not sure what you're going to find," says Kious.

Their treasure is old wood. Flooring, doors, windows -- nothing is spared.

All of the materials are taken from houses and buildings in Cleveland that are about to be torn down.

Kious says, "Houses will be dismantled as opposed to demolished."

Dilapidated doors are turned into beautiful modern chairs. They create a pretty piece of Cleveland and a rich piece of history. "We make a big deal out of these rebirth certificates that give the history and story," says Ezra Taxel of APOC. We sell stories just as much as we sell furniture and that's what sets our stuff apart."

"Everything in here was headed for the landfill," says Aaron Gogolin of APOC.

The designs are unique, from lighting, to artwork, to chairs, even cutting boards. "It just shows this material can be used for anything, it's great, old wood," says P.J. Doran of APOC.

Two passions, one for creativity and one for the environment, are now one. "APOC is really the perfect intersection for me of a lifelong obsession with everything eco-friendly," says Taxel.

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