

# UNPROGRAMMABLE PATTERNS



**W**ith the proliferation of computerized routers and programmable laser cutting machines capable of cranking out complex shapes and patterns in seconds, isn't it comforting to know that some of the best embellishment around is produced by someone whacking a few homemade steel stamps with a hammer? On his maple side table and a range of other pieces, Massachusetts furniture maker Timothy Coleman has been using a caveman-simple technique to produce stunning patterns. Coleman wields the stamps quickly and judges spacing by eye, which keeps the work fun and keeps the patterns from a sterile perfection. To give some of his patterns an extra jolt, he fills the stamped areas with colored lacquer. For more on how Coleman makes his stamps and patterns, see the article on p. 58. ■



Photos: Dean Powell (bottom left and right); Jonathan Binzen (all others)