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## **Young woodworker wins third title in international competition**

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Ever since he was a child, Nathan Cohen has had an interest in woodworking, which stems mostly from growing up around it.

Nathan's father, Phil Cohen owns Cohen Architecture Woodworking in St. James.

"It started when I was about 5," said Nathan. "I messed around in the shop making little toys. I grew up doing the stuff."

Nathan's competitive woodworking began in 2004 when he built a curio cabinet for a school project. He then took that piece and competed against 40 other schools in the region and took first place. Because Nathan finished in one of the top six places, he went on to the international competition and won first place there as well.

Then in 2005, Nathan created a display case for competition. That piece also took first place against 63 other entries, with his brother Benji coming in close second.

For the third year in a row, Nathan again took first place in the international competition held June 1 in Virginia. This year, he created a beautiful night stand, complete with two secret compartments.

The project took Nathan approximately 45 hours to complete.



Nathan Cohen and his night stand that won him the first prize in an international woodworking competition.

Michele Martin/Rolla Daily News Photo

In order to compete, he had to submit an essay, the full plans for the piece and pictures of the night stand being made.

Though Nathan says that he was rushed in creating the night stand, the finished piece does not show it.

Nathan says that the night stand project is the "favorite thing he has made" and that he is "really proud of it."

Nathan says that he is pursuing a career in the woodworking industry. Currently he is learning to do the drafting for the family business.

Nathan and his four brothers, Daniel, Josh, Noah and Benji, have all benefited from growing up in the woodworking business.

Currently, all five of the boys work in the shop. Noah and Daniel work as project managers, while Josh, Benji and Nathan work in custom specialties. Nathan also has four sisters.

Cohen Architectural Woodworking has won prestigious awards such as the Architectural Woodworking Institute Award of Excellence for their work at the Grand Plaza Hotel registration desk.