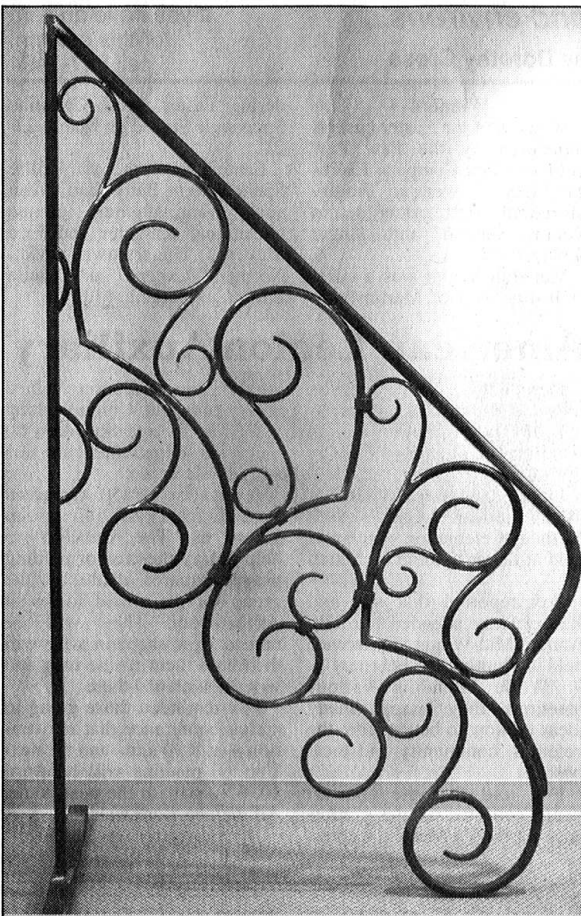


## Art in architecture show opens



LEE BADGER'S stair rail of round solid steel.

Wood, metal, glass and paper are transformed into sculpture, furniture and design artworks by 16 regional and local artists in Art in Architecture, the Morgan Arts Council's (MAC) new show. The special exhibit opens at the Ice House Gallery in Berkeley Springs on Friday, April 4 at 7:30 p.m. It is curated by Martinsburg photographer and designer, Rip Smith, and hangs through April 27.

The Ice House Gallery gala opening is part of an Artwalk that begins at Mountain Laurel Crafts on the square from 5 to 7:30 p.m. showcasing a remarkable array of high quality, hand-crafted American arts and wearables.

"Architecture is one of the oldest forms of art," said curator Smith. "Artistic design of living, working, and ceremonial spaces is just an extension of architecture. It is all aimed at enhancing life activities."

Lee Badger of Anvilworks in Hedgesville creates forged and hammered metal furniture and sculpture that invites touching and often defines the space in which it is placed whether inside or out. "I like to make a piece that fits perfectly into its surroundings, either as a part of the whole or as a natural focal point," says Badger whose one-of-a-kind commissioned works can be found in both private and public collections.

Peter Wood is a metal artist in Berkeley Springs whose work can be seen both inside and out

at Lot 12. Wood merges his strength and imagination with the properties of the metal -- both found and new -- to transform the material into images and objects of flowing and care-free movement. "I often allow the metal to choose its own direction," he says.

Both Wood and Badger were part of last summer's All About Metal show at the Ice House.

New to the Ice House is Dr. Judy Rand, an experimental psychologist who turned in her academic life for one as an artist and woodworker nearly three decades ago. Her long, narrow cabinets are richly decorated with textured images drawn from landscapes and often feature an inviting path that becomes the cabinet opening.

Other work includes John Fisher's Japanese-influenced silver Torii jewelry, the popular stick furniture of Jerry Smith and both traditional photography from Rip Smith, Doug Ritenburg and Diane Petersen as well as Alice Webb's cutting-edge digital photo art.

The curated gallery exhibit produced by the Morgan Arts Council is funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, the West Virginia Commission on the Arts and hotel/motel tax revenues. The Ice House is located on the corner of Independence and Mercer and is open Friday through Monday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information call 258-2300.