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ARTIST'S STATEMENT

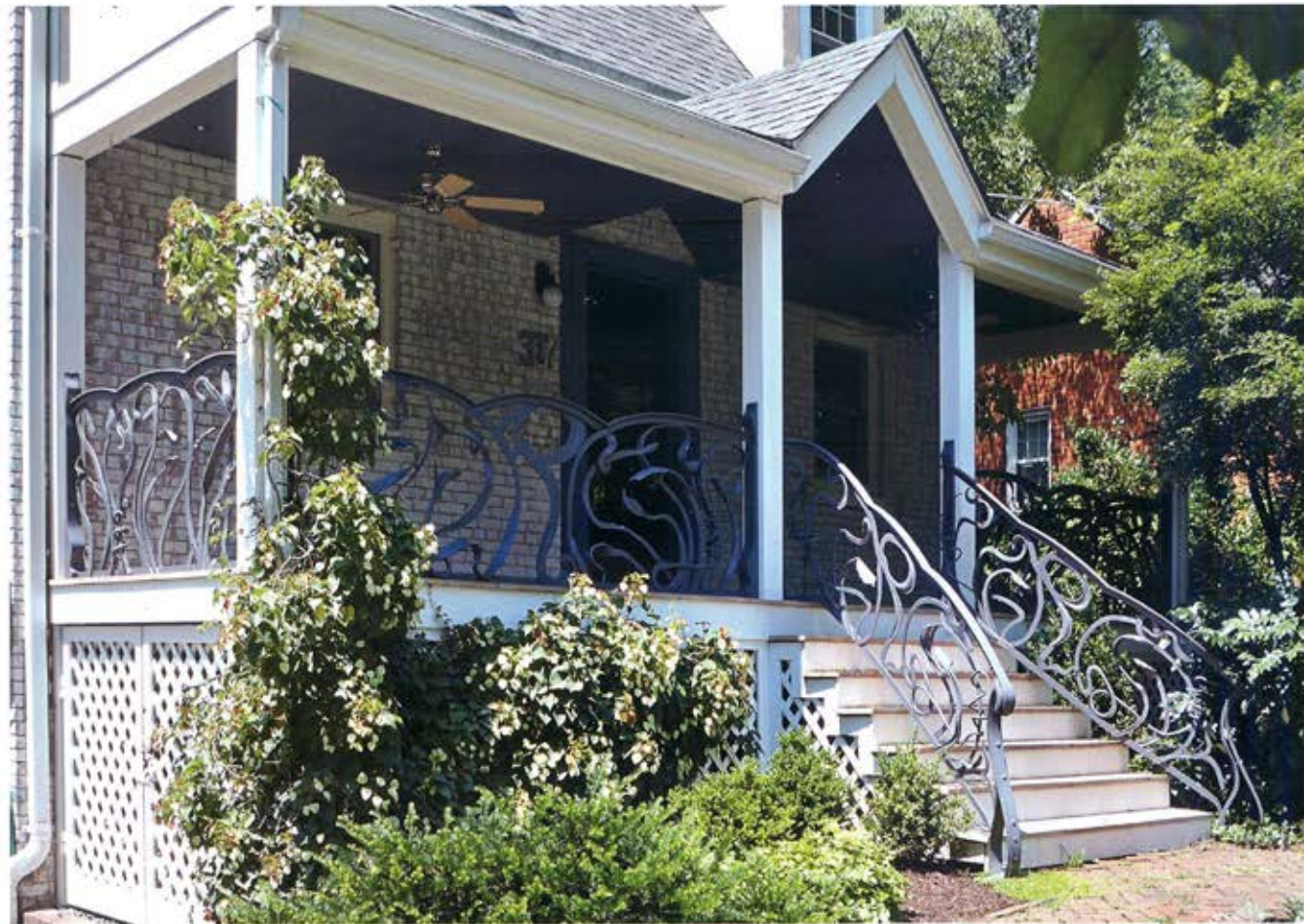
A tale of two railings: The two railings on these three pages illustrate contrasts in the scope of architectural projects that are challenging the versatility of artist-blacksmiths today. The 'R' *Monogram Railing* was commissioned by a jewelry designer for the front porch and entry stairs of her personally expressive, suburban family home. The budget was ample, the schedule and time-frame was generously flexible, and the elaborate design, inspired by art nouveau ironwork, was prescribed by the client's own drawings.

Great challenges lay in realizing the drawn design in three-dimensional forged steel, with complex twists and irregular compound curves in almost every piece. In addition, the client's design drawings had to be scaled and re-proportioned to fit the measurements of the existing porch and stairs.

In contrast, the *Rustic Railing* (see page 17) came with an appeal for help with a new log house, built on speculation and finished quickly by the builder with an inexpensive wood deck railing system installed on 65 feet of interior stairs and balconies in the soaring great room. The clients who purchased this home hoped for a new ornamental iron railing that would accommodate their modest budget and restricted schedule, and also express qualities of hand-forged craftsmanship complementary to the hewn log construction.

"R" Monogram Railing. As designed by the client, the 'R' monogram railing required forging complex twists and irregular compound curves in almost every piece. In order to create perfectly symmetrical stair railings, each piece had to be reproduced in three-dimensional reversal. Specific drawings by the client were inspired by art nouveau ironwork in Paris during the 1890s.







Rustic Railing. The new railing was designed to take advantage of existing carpentry, using the same wood curb rail to anchor the new steel balustrade. A collaborating carpenter matched the log construction with a wood handrail fastened to a top channel, further simplifying construction and installation of the steel.