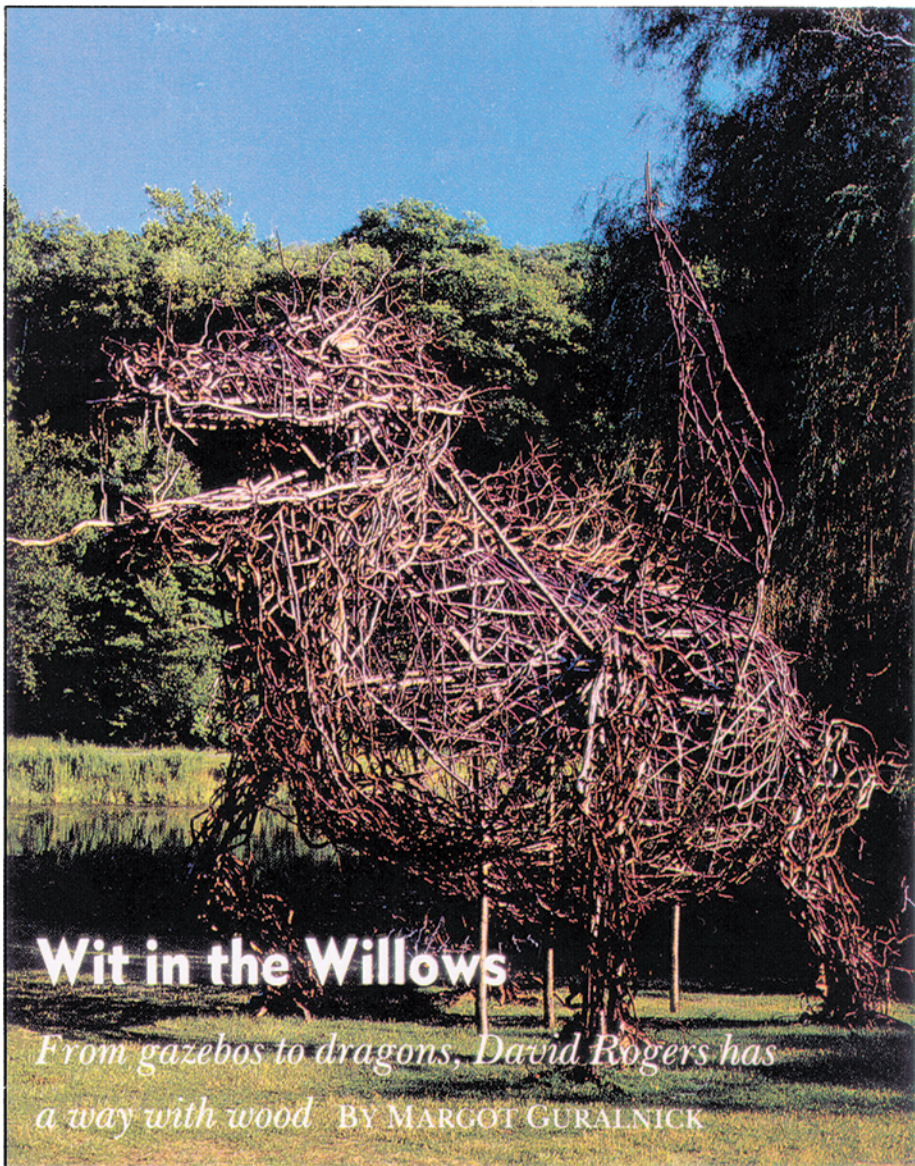


**N**ew York's own Edward Scissorhands is a thirty-one-year-old sculptor, carpenter, sailor, and former magician's assistant named David Rogers. With fingers as nimble if not as dangerous as the mad topiary-snipping movie hero's, he can transform a tangle of long supple willow branches into a classic rustic rocker, a love seat, or a miniature armchair, "perfect," he says, "as a throne for a chipmunk." Gazebos big enough for people require a small jungle's worth of "frame" (the dry logs that form the structure) and "benders" (slender green twigs used for ornament).

A trained boat builder but a self-taught branch bender, Rogers has been at his craft since he was fifteen, when he began making mobiles with timber from his Long Island backyard. Although much of his work is rooted in centuries-old furniture-making traditions, Rogers says, "I avoid studying too much. I like to let my shapes evolve in a natural way." Recently that evolution has taken a

turn toward the enormous—and the amazing. After completing a Godzilla-size dinosaur made entirely of fallen branches found on the Vermont hillside where it stands, Rogers created *Corin*, a fifty-foot dragon that looks like a giant Edward Koren cartoon come to life, the jittery lines supplied by sinewy mountain laurel. Next Rogers hopes someone will commission a horse that doubles as a gazebo or a larger-than-life reclining nude, twiggy of course. (David Rogers, Box 486, Glenwood Landing, NY 11547; call 212-830-4587) ▲



**Wit in the Willows**

*From gazebos to dragons, David Rogers has a way with wood* BY MARGOT GURALNICK



David Rogers, left, at work on a willow chair in his gazebo studio. Above: One of his Lilliputian designs. Top: Fifty-foot-long *Corin*, all branches and twigs with a lilac-bush tongue, rises from a lakeside lair at the Renaissance Festival site in Tuxedo, NY.

TODD EBERLE