



# Capers Cauthen

## TBLX INSIDER

**CAPERS** is a Charleston native, born and raised. As a craftsman and carpenter, he has dedicated his life to preservation in the Holy City. Through his company, Landrum Tables, he continues that work every day. Using locally reclaimed wood that would otherwise end up in a landfill, he and his team handcraft pieces of furniture with heart, soul and memory, right here in town. His workshop in North Charleston is always buzzing with energy – saws running in the background, people coming and going, the voices of collaboration carrying over the noise of production. He’s seen some change in the city he’s called home for almost 50 years, and isn’t shy with his thoughts on the evolution of his city.

**TBLX: Why Charleston?**

**CC:** I grew up on Orange Street downtown in the 1970s – Charleston is home because it’s home. I love the people here – everyone in Charleston has a big heart, is happy to give you the time of day, say hello and see how life is going. I’m grounded here, my business is here – I want to raise my family the way I was raised in Charleston. I love my city.

**TBLX: How is Charleston changing?**

**CC:** Boy, it certainly has changed. I remember a Charleston where it would be a shock to see more than a handful of cars rolling down King Street. Now, it’s busier than ever with people and traffic and construction, but it’s all good – we appreciate the growth and are happy people are here, sharing in our beautiful city. There are some really great people that I’ve met that have come to Charleston from out of town and are here doing incredible things for the city and our community. Whether it’s implementing programs to help with preservation, or opening amazing restaurants, we’re grateful. The growth of our city has contributed to the growth of our business, and we’re grateful for that.

**TBLX: What is your favorite way to enjoy the city?**

**CC:** Charleston has some really good, small theater events, which I always enjoy. But my favorite thing to do

in Charleston is to cast out a line. I try not to leave home without a fishing rod in my truck and if I’m on the way home, or driving around the city and traffic gets bad, I’ll think to myself, “what’s the closest place I could go wet a line?” I’ll pull over to one of my favorite spots and cast, wait for the traffic to calm down, and just enjoy where I am.

**TBLX: What is your favorite thing to do with friends visiting Charleston from out of town?**

**CC:** I love figuring out little boat excursions to show people Charleston from the water. It’s a peaceful way to see the big picture of Charleston – our shorelines are still so beautiful.

**“Streets used to be swept by hand – a couple of guys with brooms and trash bins with little wheels on them. We knew them all by name, would hand out lemonade to them when we saw them coming around.”**

Of course it’s fun to take people for a stroll downtown and tell stories about the Charleston of my childhood – it’s changed so much over the years. Tradd Street, Legare Street, South of Broad – those streets really take me back to my childhood and are still just as beautiful as they were back then. The homes have been renovated thoughtfully and restored carefully which is important to me.

**TBLX: What is something that people don’t know about Charleston?**

**CC:** I mean Charleston has changed so much, even in my lifetime. The city streets used to be swept by hand – a couple of guys with brooms and trash bins with little wheels on them. We knew them all by name, would hand out lemonade to them when we saw them coming around. Imagine keeping a city like ours clean today with a trash bin on wheels and a broom? We’ve come a long way.