



When designer **Peter Weldon** left for Vietnam in 2002 he wasn't sure what the future would hold and he really wouldn't have known that the next few years were to be such a great adventure. The only certainty was that he was contracted to Theodore Alexander (www.theodoalexander.com) for one year; one of the worlds leading furniture manufacturers, to establish a ceramics factory in Ho Chi Minh city, Vietnams capital also known as Saigon. The factory was

to make interior ceramics artefacts such as reproduction lamp bases, vases, and sculptural items for the American market.

Peter had always been fascinated with period design and had been building a small ceramics manufacturing studio in Stoke on Trent since 1994. Specialising in replica european Creamware and antique Sevres style ceramics he supplied interior decorators, museums and stately homes in both Britain and America. In 1999 Chatsworth house

Win a Beautiful Wedding Seat Worth £700

commissioned him to replicate tulipieres from their own rare tin-glaze collection.

During 2001 Peter decided that the time was right to sell his ceramics business, and this took him overseas to Vietnam for twelve months together with his wife and daughter, relocating the studio there for Theodore Alexander. He learnt basic Vietnamese, made many friends and contacts and took the opportunity to have a good look around the country. However, something that really fascinated him was the French colonial ironwork still to be found in certain parts of the city. Some fine gates and railings, balconies and architectural ironwork still remain; a legacy of French rule prior to the Vietnam war.

As an ex-pat in Saigon, Peter found the Vietnamese people to be friendly and enterprising and a long term friendship began with a skilled steel fabricator Mr Hai who is now Peter's business partner. Peter began designing once again, but this time in iron and steel and early in 2003 the seeds of a new enterprise were sown. Rapidly a collection of period ironwork designs grew and a workshop was established with skilled Vietnamese blacksmiths, steel fabricators and ironworkers; not only craftsmen, but artists in their own right.

Peter returned to the UK in March 2003 and now directs design and sales from an office at home.

Peter has kindly teamed up with **Traditional Homes & Interiors** to offer one lucky winner the chance to win an amazing Wedding Seat, as pictured, worth £700. To be in with a chance of winning, simply send your name and address on a postcard marked '**Peter Weldon Giveaway**' to the address on page 7, and one lucky winner will be selected at random.

(See page 7 for rules of entry)

Closing Date: 4th May 2007



To see Peters wide range of designs – classic gates and railings, garden buildings, bridges, tree seats, wirework and other bespoke designs, please visit his website www.peterweldon.co.uk