



## 2001 CRAFTSMANSHIP AWARD WINNER



Ron Ladina of The Durable Slate Company

The four, 15-foot spires on the steeple of First United Methodist Church in London are the craftsmanship of Ron Ladina. His master metal working skills, combined with an industrial design background, allowed him to replicate the four original spires which had been removed 50 years before. Ladina designed the replacement spires, working from a old photograph and the "footprints" of the original structures on the roof.

The metal pieces were fabricated in the shop and

later fitted on site. The wood for the base supports and the gutter system was all cut, fitted, and assembled on site. Ladina worked 60 feet above ground on the steeple, in bitter winter cold and high winds to complete the project.

He performed much of the installation himself, working primarily with his twin brother Rick to make sure each spire was created with such precision that when they were installed they fit on the first try, with no alteration or adjustment. Rick is a previous BX Craftsmanship Award winner. Ladina has been in the construction industry for 18 years, spending the last eight at Durable Slate.

Ladina is a first time BX Craftsmanship Award winner and is originally from Bedford. He holds a degree

in industrial design from the Columbus College of Art and Design. He became interested in construction when a neighbor that had heard about his carpentry skills knocked on his door and asked if he would like a job.

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Structural and Ornamental Sheet Metal,  
First United Methodist Church, London.

**General Contractor: The Durable Slate Company**

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