

DESERT! DESIGN

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CUSTOM
FURNITURE
For Today's Designer

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ARIZONA NORTH



CUSTOM FURNITURE

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When Cabinetry Becomes Furniture

CCHIPPENDALE WAS CALLED A CABINET MAKER, AND ACKNOWLEDGED FOR HIS artistic expression. Creative expression is what brought me to woodworking, as if it was the music of my soul, a passion that is still strong to this day!

I started my apprenticeship, at 17, with Old World European craftsmen in San Francisco in 1973. Our work ranged from Historic Victorian Preservation to antique reproduction furniture. From trade secrets handed down, I now can walk into any Historic home and design and build pieces that look as if built at the time of construction. I also reproduce any furniture style from an existing heirloom, or photograph, to include hand carving Chippendale claw and ball feet, or any style of cabriole leg.



I am Randy Wolfe, the lead designer and builder at Wolfewoodworking Inc., where we manufacture custom millwork, cabinetry, and furniture. About 15 years ago, Tuscan style was in fashion, we saw functional cabinetry looking more like furniture pieces. Kitchen islands often contrasted and were more stylized, with a different finish in a focal point to add drama.

- A European looking Island was crafted with Bombay front, it received heavy distressing with a crackle and peeling paint finish, making it look like one large antique piece of furniture (*pictured above*).
- Bathroom vanities and powder rooms also started looking like antique furniture with sinks (*Mahogany piece, pictured next page, top left*).

Now any design theme is possible if you can find a great concept photo, heirloom or artifact as design inspiration, for example in a Moroccan theme (picture included). Details can change basic cabinetry into one large room of integrated furniture: a contrasting island with curved seating, arched bonnet crown molding, a cooktop area that looks like a freestanding altar with mantel, a free standing dry bar with stemware rack, carved artifacts from a salvage yard, top of bookcase and back splash area. Simple toe kick areas now have furniture kicks ornamented with stylized Moroccan molding, lathe wood turned feet, split wood turnings under curved crown molding.



Our Design Process

We can work directly with a designer, builder or the business or home owner. A concept photo or a simple sketch of size and detail is all that's needed from the client to get the ball rolling. We also can work from designer or architect drawings, taking responsibility for engineering, fabrication, finishing and turnkey installation. We always like to know the functions and aesthetic needs. It's also important to work with the schedules and deadlines of other trades. I pride myself on being an "approachable craftsman." While we often start from a picture or hand drawing, CAD drawings, and perspective renderings can follow. We generate samples for client approval on doors, moldings, legs, countertop edges, finishes, and mock ups of anything not clearly illustrated in even the best drawings. On more detailed pieces we create a full scale layout making it easier for fabrication and client visualization.

Last year one of our kitchens won 1st place Millwork Industry partner, along with years of being published in *Luxe*, *Better Homes and Gardens* and *Colorado Homes and Lifestyles*. I like for clients to have at least one shop visit when woodworking is complete, before the finish is applied to ensure the design. We set up the project in the shop like the way it will be installed, with doors and drawers hung and fit. On more detailed projects progress photos may be sent or additional shop viewing. In addition to creative expression that drives my passion, it is the joy of partnering with clients to give them interiors that inspire and that they love to live in! When the homeowner of the Moroccan Theme kitchen viewed her kitchen for the 1st time in the shop (as described by a witnessing ASID designer) "The woman squealed with joy for 20 minutes, then spent the rest of the time fanning tears while saying, 'Oh my goodness! Dreams can come true, this so much more than we expected!'"

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