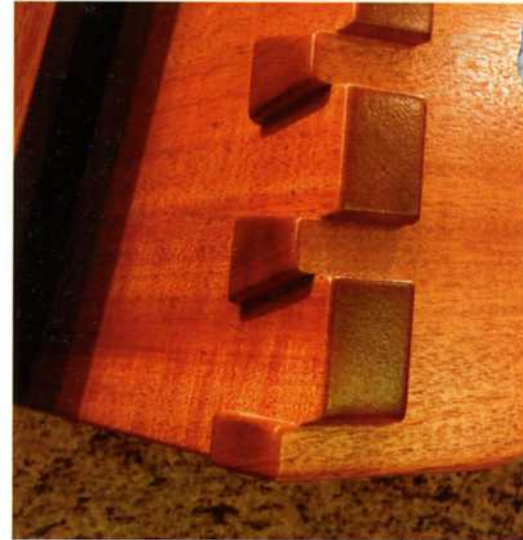


The Art of the Wood

A Story of Uncompromised Craftsmanship

Story By **Jeremy Jarrell**



A dream often leads to a unique design that captures the essence of capability. The Artisan House, located at the Greenbrier Sporting Club in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, was built to pursue a dream of customized wood work that sets a new standard in design, detail and quality. The dream is now a reality and the design speaks volumes about the dreamer's innovative work.

"We wanted to build a house as a piece of custom furniture, with every detail and every piece of wood considered and presented to its full potential. We handpicked the best mahogany available in the world, each piece bought with a purpose in mind," explains Michael Corlis, of Corlis Design & Construction, Inc. based in Frametown, West Virginia. "Every member of the design and build team had the same vision of making an uncompromised house of wood and stone. We wanted to push the envelope and build a remarkable house as well as it could be done."

The vision of Corlis Design & Construction, in operation as a design and build business for more than 25 years, met with the architect who could envision and share the dream. When Corlis met with Mark McConnell, of Cincinnati's McConnell & Ewing Architects, he knew he had the perfect architect to team with on Artisan House.

"Mark immediately got what we wanted to do. I gave him a tour of our Signature Woodworks shop in Flatwoods and told him of our desire to build a house out of world-class materials with uncompromised craftsmanship," says Corlis. "Mark and I sat down at a folding table on the site and by the end of the day Mark had sketched the essence of our home."

As for the architect's take on the project, McConnell knew it was a viable and interesting endeavor. "It is a wood showplace. The outside of the home is built like a piece of furniture as well as the inside," he says. "It is an architect's dream to work with Corlis Design &

Top Meticulously crafted, even the dovetails on the stove hood are of the highest craftsmanship.

Above Left Collaboration between Corlis Design & Construction and McConnell & Ewing Architects resulted in the stunning Artisan House at the Greenbrier Sporting Club in West Virginia.

Above Right Every detail of the Artisan House is constructed with the finest wood, including mahogany kitchen cabinets.



Nature's beauty is incorporated inside and outside of the Artisan Home. A back deck overlooks a running stream providing an excellent place to read a book or visit with friends.

Below The Artisan House was built to maintain a harmony with the wood used to build its interior. Wood from the same tree was used when possible to maintain color and feel.



Construction. Their knowledge of wood, craftsmanship and attention to detail is amazing."

The Artisan House appears very comfortable situated on its wooded creek-side lot with an exterior composed of hand-split cedar shakes, granite, bluestone and other complimentary cedar sidings. The exterior lighting is all hand-made copper with iridescent art glass. The house seems to invite you to come in from the road with its friendly porches and more than 1,500-square-foot of decks and terraces.

It is inside, though, where the house really sets itself apart. Corlis had a vision of a comprehensive approach to all the woodwork, featuring the rarest, most figured boards as panels, set off by straight grained frames. Bookmatched panels are featured in all the custom-made cabinetry, built-ins, wainscoting and interior doors.

Most rooms were done with wood from the same tree, maintaining the most harmony in the color, grain and figure. "We discovered how right it can look when

you do small but significant details like wrapping the grain of wood around a mitered corner," says Corlis. "This house was a labor of love and commitment to the art of building. Built without compromises, Artisan House deserves recognition for pushing the envelope of custom building."

The Artisan House is for sale at the Sporting Club at the Greenbrier Resort. This heirloom-quality home has had a full interior of custom furniture designed for it, if the buyer chooses to go in that direction. This choice would allow a homeowner to have furnishings as integral as possible to the original home in both materials and design. One of the parties currently interested in the home is looking at it for a corporate retreat.

Corlis Design has successfully taken this level of work to the business environment before they brought it to the home. To see more of Corlis Design & Construction's project, visit www.corlisdesign.com. ▲

Photography by **Michael Corlis** and courtesy of **The Greenbrier Sporting Club**

Other features of the home

- A wood-lovers hideaway, some of the best woods are available. Handpicked for grain, color and figure, these woods include mahogany, figured mahogany, quarter and rift sawn white oak, cedar and ipe which are incorporated into the design and construction of the home.
- Custom mahogany kitchen cabinets and furniture, with bookmatched figured panels provide further wooden details.
- Furniture-grade built-ins, such as the entertainment center with remote hidden panel location for up to a 50" flat screen TV aid in maintaining the wooden theme while providing modern amenities.
- There are 22 handmade doors in straight grain frames, with highly figured panels throughout the house.
- The custom made figured mahogany front door with seeded glass is a novel welcoming point to the home.
- A custom window seat in the stair landing provides a comfortable reading nook with display and book shelves.
- Solid wood wainscoting and bookmatched sets in open areas provide an added touch.
- Quartersawn white oak floors throughout, with heated tile in the laundry and bathrooms bring class and style to the house.
- The home includes four bedroom suites with a study as a fifth bedroom option on the first floor.
- In the master bath, a Kohler Purist whirlpool tub is surrounded by mahogany custom-made panels. The spacious glass shower is clad in authentic tumbled marbled tiles. Rainforest marble in strong hues of earthtones form mesmerizing countertops over mahogany cabinetry.
- A beautiful granite chimney with back-to-back fireplaces in the master suite and the great room are an invitation to a cozy evening at home.
- A stone foundation, terraces and walls mix with clear cedar bevel siding and shingles to create a harmony with this creek-side setting in the woods.