

A LOVE AFFAIR

One of the most stunning aspects of the project is the main level restroom foyer. The design flawlessly combines elements of both Chinese and art deco architecture, and incorporates wood with a beautifully contrasting high sheen metal. Soupy Lenhardt says of the paneling, "Stainless steel was precisely cut with high-pressure water, and then veneers were cut with the same process to achieve the perfect inlaid design. The doors were then finished with a fully filled, high gloss topcoat to match the finish for the rest of the home."

WITH WOOD

The Newport Coast Residence

by Carly Bourne



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The project that began as a love affair with wood has gradually become a glorious example of the merging of artistic design, art deco, and Asian influences along with exquisite woodwork detail. "This project demanded perfection at every level," said project manager Soupy Lenhardt of K & Z Cabinet Company, the millwork fabrication and installation contractor on the Newport Coast project. That perfection is evident in the finished product.

Jose Perez of JP Designs, the project designer, was a long-time friend of the homeowner, and their friendship has evolved into a great working relationship where design ideas and input can flow

back and forth from designer to owner effortlessly. Inspired by the Wright-styled exterior of the home and drawing inspiration from the homeowner's passion for art deco and Chinese architectural details, Perez designed an interior that incorporated five species of wood and thousands of labor hours into a majestic deco design. "It felt like I was living, sleeping and eating deco style," he confessed. "It didn't make any difference what I was doing, I always thought deco."

The Newport Coast residence has three levels and is approximately 45,000 square feet. The true challenge of this project was to incorporate deco elements into all of the interior spaces without repeating design concepts anywhere

else in the house. The deco-influenced design was not lost in any detail—all of the built-ins, furniture, doors, flooring, fireplaces, ceilings, fixtures and paneling were designed with art deco in mind.

"The project was a complete challenge in all aspects from the complexity of the designs to the manufacturing, finishing, and installation. All of these obstacles were met only because we had a very professional group of sub-contractors, finishers, and installers who were able to work with one objective in mind: to focus on details, details, details," explained Lenhardt.

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ART DECO

Art Deco takes its name from the 1925 Paris event: *Expo Internationale des Arts Decoratifs et Industriels Moderne*, a fair to display the emerging “modern” art, fashion, and architectural styles of the time, and to establish a unified vision of modern design.

The name is generally used to describe much of the decorative graphic art, design, and architectural styles of the 1920s and 1930s. In art deco, one can see echoes of the geometric elements of ancient Egypt, Asia, and the Middle East, as well as the influence of ancient Greek and Roman design. However the most noted element is the contrast between the classical styles of architecture which preceded art deco and the cold, hard efficiency of the modernist architecture which followed it.

There is a sense of speed and motion to art deco: references to the industrial age, transportation, machinery, and gears; natural elements such as flowers and sunbursts have been reinterpreted in geometric form. Art deco also emphasizes luxury with the use of exotic materials, high gloss finishes, and sweeping lines.

At the time, the art deco style represented an idealized vision of a new modern age; and even today, it still evokes the glamour, sleekness and sophistication of a bygone era.



SEE FIRST-HAND THE MASTER-PIECES OF ART DECO...

The Legion of Honor in San Francisco hosts, *Art Deco 1910-1939*. The exhibit displays over 300 objects drawn from collections throughout Europe, America, and Japan, in mediums such as

painting, furniture, sculpture, textiles, architectural design, glass, ceramics, graphic art, photography, and fashion. The highlight of the exhibit is the main portion of the 1930s foyer of London's venerable Strand Palace Hotel, famous for its innovative application of materials and lighting. The exhibit runs through July 4, 2004, at the Legion of Honor in San Francisco, CA. Admission is \$15 for adults, \$13 for seniors, \$12 for youths ages 12-17, and \$7 for children 5-11. Children under 5 are free. Visit www.museumtix.com for advance tickets.

Image Caption: Tamara de Lempicka, Jeune fille en vert (Girl in a Green Dress), ca 1927.



The detailing in the library design echoes the books that are to fill its shelves, according to designer Perez. “After working on [the library design] and generating nine or ten concepts,” explains Perez, “I started to focus on the details and all of a sudden those details began to look like an open book on its side. Then I drew a folded page on one of the drawings I was playing around with and I liked it. I showed that concept to the owners, and they loved it, too.”

LOVE AFFAIR WITH WOOD

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Another challenge faced was the selection of the right wood. Not only was it important to find a tight-grained wood with the right tone and color, but the materials also had to be 14 feet long to reach the tallest wall for paneling. The search for the right species took nearly 8 months and 12 different species of veneer logo samples from six U.S. and European suppliers, and was well worth the effort. In the end, quarter-cut anigre wood veneers were selected for most of the interior furnishings, and used in conjunction with redwood, figured maple, Honduran mahogany, and quilted maple.

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No detail in this project was overlooked: The door frame engraving incorporates a geometric flora design, while the ceiling fixtures form a majestic sunburst to frame the recessed lighting.



The ornamentation in Perez' design remains loyal to the art deco vision: Echoing the sleek lines of a new industrial world with subtle references to towering skyscrapers and factories.



LOVE AFFAIR WITH WOOD

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"I wanted to select a wood that would make the best marriage with the deco/Chinese style. After the owners saw the wood samples with a high gloss finish, they chose the final wood selection based on the room and furniture design, ensuring it would be at harmony with its surroundings," said Perez.

The most impressive aspect of the project is indeed the harmonious flow between the designs in each room of the house, in addition to the great rapport between designer, homeowner, and project manager. Five years and 13,715 installation hours later, the Newport Coast residence is a project that attests to the exacting standards of the Woodwork Institute and the unrelenting attention to detail on the part of the homeowner, designer, and project manager. The project was awarded the Bernard B. Barber, Jr. Award for Excellence in 2003 for the outstanding use of architectural woodwork. ■

ART DECO

The following craftsmen were involved in the Newport Coast project:

INSTALLATION TEAM

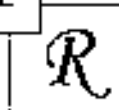
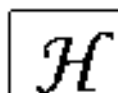
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