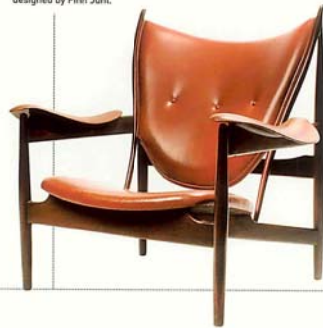


Jerry Rowland relaxes in his Boca Raton studio. Opposite: Rowland assisted in the design, executed the construction, and manufactured and installed the cabinetry for the bathroom of this Fisher Island condo designed by Lorraine Letendre.

PHOTO: RICHARD PATTERSON, OPPOSITE: NEW PAPER, TOP: ALBERT KUJAWA/ISTOCK

For Jerry Rowland, woodworking is more than an expertly honed, finetuned technique. It's a youthful skill-turned-career craft, and a lifetime pursuit. "Woodworking has always been a passion," says Rowland, president of Handcraft Woodworking and Handcraft Construction Management in Boca Raton. Influenced by his father—an amateur woodworking guru—Rowland spent his early years experimenting with virtually anything he could nail down. After moving to Florida in his teens, he apprenticed at a cabinet shop where he rediscovered the craft, having neglected it during his parents' separation. "I reunited with a love I'd lost and it really took over my life," he says. Earning a degree in interior design from The Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale, Rowland drew upon years of experience to create his niche, marrying design with construction, top-notch finishes, and materials like wood, steel and aluminum. "I like clean, simple and functional design," he says. "When you walk into a well-designed space, you should feel as if a weight has been lifted off of you." handcraftcorps.com; 561.241.5517

Wyeth, a favorite shop of Rowland's, houses unique finds, including a teak and leather Chieftain armchair designed by Finn Juhl.



MASTER CRAFTSMAN

JERRY ROWLAND



Inspiration:

All of my work today can be traced back to two projects in the 1990s. The first is Gianni Versace's home in South Beach, and the second is a couple who's had me work on three of their homes.

Favorite Getaway:

Little Palm Island Resort & Spa. You're on a private island with nothing but great food, a spa, a pool, and the one you love.

Top Shop:

An antique showroom in New York called Wyeth. He always has great, unique things.

Last Read:

Fish! A Remarkable Way to Boost Morale and Improve Results, by Stephen C. Lundin, Harry Paul and John Christensen. I bought six copies that we passed around the office. We definitely try to apply those principles here.

Design Icon:

Richard Meier is always an inspiration, mostly for his clean palettes and lines.

Influence:

At a young age, I found myself taking summer art courses, drawing at home, and trying to duplicate perspective drawings out of some of my father's books.