



A few of this home's many exceptional living spaces include a large, open kitchen with coffered ceiling, with a door that leads to a butler's pantry with custom built-ins.



This stellar wine cellar includes stunning millwork niches for sculpture and artwork. The ceiling design allows for a unique feeling of depth by way of its spaced sat design. The cellar is unique in that there are two sides of full glass, creating a strong visual anchor for both the basement foyer and the distinctive art pieces viewed from the adjacent interior pool.



The stunning second-floor semi-circular sitting room provides 180-degree views through copper-clad windows. The copper roof allows the sound of rain to filter into the room.



Three-story open staircase featuring the owner's metal sculpture at the base made from a DC-10 airplane wing. The two-level stair is wrapped in custom-raised panels.



A warm wood-paneled study with coffered ceiling surrounded by custom built-ins.



The luxurious master bedroom features dual modern gas fireplaces, sitting area with backlit custom shelves, private balcony with glass railings, and expansive water and pool views.

sponsor of the month enviable interior spaces through millwork design

Amazing things happen when wood meets drywall. Whether painted or stained, millwork can transform a space from plain and simple to stunning and sophisticated. Millwork is a building term for any type of woodwork or building product that is produced in a mill.

Paneling, trim, stair railing, doors, etc., all millwork. But art happens when incredibly talented and experienced carpenters assemble wood into complex designs with the help of good interior architectural design.

When preparing to build a custom home, clients are gathering inspirational images from Pinterest and Houzz to reflect their personal wishes for the design of their new home. With access to literally thousands of images on the internet, what is apparent is that the most inspiring interior photos include beautiful millwork. Whether field-assembled or shop-built, the outcome of using extensive millwork is a layering of exquisite texture creating an elegant and classic finish to any room.

While millwork is desired, the cost of its application is often misunderstood. Painted wood is always the most economi-

cal millwork product to use. New materials like Nantucket board allow the use of larger panel installations, which reduce labor time because of the board product. Poplar is used in custom homes for paint-grade millwork outcomes because of the stability of the wood. Yellow pine experiences too much shrinkage and often pulls after installation, allowing cracking along paint joints.

Stained woods increase cost naturally because the wood species is important to the outcome. Douglas fir is one of the less expensive woods to use for stained applications. Oak, walnut, alder wood, heart

pine, and cherry are other species often used. They each have different grains and provide different outcomes in color and finish. Reclaimed woods such as dead-fallen oak and hundred-year-old heart pine bring the beauty of fissures, knots, nail holes, checks, and splits to paneled walls.

Running trims refers to boards such as crowns and base trims. These millwork pieces are available in one-piece applications or two- and three-piece build-outs. The more you layer millwork, the more sophisticated and more expensive the project becomes. But what is also true is the more detailed the millwork, the more

the house becomes a home. The walls start as a sheet of drywall or plywood. From there, layers begin to create more delicate details. These details provide intricacy and human scale to large wall and ceiling surfaces.

Now, when the exterior architecture can create the opportunity for interior architecture to come alive, the beauty happens. Ceilings provide so many moments for creativity. Vaulted ceilings are great surfaces for beadboard or V-groove panels. Stained timber beams reflect lodge settings. Combining stained and painted woods can create a transitional feel to the room.

Flat, tall ceilings allow for massive, curved ceilings. Finished in beadboard, the ceiling evokes a nautical sense. Coffers add dimension to the flat plane of drywall. The drywall can be painted to match, painted a color, replaced with beadboard or V-groove, or covered in wallpaper. The crossing beams of the coffers themselves can be detailed with three-quarter or half beads at the edges or left with the sharp edge of the wood board. Coffer areas can be perfect squares or rectangles. Crown trim can be added to the interior of each niche created. The key to the success of a coffered ceiling is that they align with some important element in the room, such



The scale of this living room is reminiscent of the turn-of-the-century and showcases walls fully covered in raised paneling and a coffered ceiling with painted beams, beadboard, and V-groove paneling.



Three-story floating wood and steel staircase with cantilevered treads and glass railing surround a custom 27-foot-long light fixture, which cascades through the stairwell.

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as a fireplace or opening from another room. Further, the recessed lights in the coffers must be dead-centered. To do this, the original framing for the space must be coursed out to allow these centers to be open for the housings of recessed cans. The success of interior architecture and design starts with architecture for the exterior.

The vertical walls are the canvas for millwork fantasies. Raised or flat paneling, wainscoting at waist- or chin-height, built-in shelving with curved niches or curved projecting shelves, and engaged columns launching ceiling trusses ... all of these elements bring extensive sophistication to a room. The architectural elements to be coordinated for success are the framing, the wall heights (especially the space allocation above windows and doors), the areas for framed artwork applications, and the electri-



The beadboard-paneled second-floor hallway leads to a movie room and third-floor tower room. The oval opening lines up with the two other windows, permitting a full view through the 135-foot-long home.

cal outlets and switch plates. Identical to coordinating the recessed lighting to the center of coffers, the original architecture considers these final millwork installations to achieve the perfect outcomes.

Putting together the millwork in the most successful way is like playing chess. There must be an initial underlying comprehensive understanding of the desired outcome. Ideally, the architect has the vision for the outcome. Every element selected or designed must fit together like a puzzle. It is in this place that really special things happen.

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Cathy Purple Cherry

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Born and raised in Virginia, Cathy Purple Cherry ultimately landed in Annapolis, where she grew a large architectural firm specializing in high-end custom homes and estates.

A talented architect, visionary, and three-dimensional thinker, Cathy is able to marry clients' dreams with the reality of the built environment. Cathy's intense love for the mountains has always been deeply rooted in her, and as such, Cathy is passionate about extending her 25-year old practice through DC and down the range to Charlottesville, where she and her husband are building their second home, which they will one day retire in on Ennis Mountain.

While Cathy revels in the intricate design opportunities presented by high-end residential architecture, Cathy is equally passionate about her philanthropic efforts and her work serving the special needs community through the firm's Purposeful Architecture studio.

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