

Gabriel McKeagney

Brilliance in woodworking in San Juan Capistrano

■ Gabriel McKeagney comes from a long line of Irish craftsmen who built furniture for churches and homes. Raised in Northern Ireland, McKeagney has continued the legacy in furniture and woodworking, and as founder of Tempo Carpentry & Design, Inc. in San Juan Capistrano, he has gained a reputation as the area's unsurpassable woodworker.

His recent designs include a Louis XV fireplace mantle carved intricately out of rare English walnut. The mantle features floral arrangements, musical instruments and French imagery.

"With every project, it is my intention to create woodworks that are architecturally pure, exceptionally artistic, and realistically functional," he says. "As a European, it is in my nature to enhance artistic subtleties, rather than make bold and obvious furnishings."

TCD is also known for distinctive wood ceilings, which include Moroccan, Andalusian, tropical and traditional pub designs. They claim the handcrafted ceilings become the "fifth wall" to a beautifully decorated room.

Currently, TCD is designing and manufacturing three solid mahogany entertainment and library cabinets for a custom home in Newport Coast. The design was inspired by a black and white image torn from an old book of traditional furniture. And, says McKeagney, "I always strive to find the perfect blend of architectural balance and artistic thoughtfulness."

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