

# RIVIERA

M A G A Z I N E

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THEY ARE THE ARTISANS, CARPENTERS AND LANDSCAPE DESIGNERS BEHIND SOME OF O.C.'S MOST AMAZING HOMES – BUT DON'T EXPECT TO FIND THEM IN THE YELLOW PAGES

## *Secret Sources*

### IN THE WOODWORK

There is something magical about the work of Gabriel McKeagney — and it's not just his Irish charm and melodic voice. Each of his hand-carved pieces, be it the ceiling made from an inverted wine barrel in a tasting room or a simple Fleur-de-lis, reflects his attention to detail and love of carpentry. The fifth-generation carpenter has built his business, Tempo Carpentry, on craftsmanship and the ability to recreate almost anything. He built an Asian-inspired custom fireplace for a Pelican Crest manse, a box-office façade for a home movie theater, and an intricate bird cage in a Big Canyon guest bathroom made of blood wood and birds eye maple. “She wanted some place to hide her toilet paper,” says McKeagney of the \$10,000 birdcage. His experience in historic preservation work in Ireland enables him to design custom molding and railings to match, enhancing the architectural style of O.C.'s new homes. (He has a library of hundreds of moldings.) “It was almost like there was something missing when I came here,” he says. “It was that element of traditional wood work that belongs in these homes.” Along with residential projects from Coto de Caza to L.A., the European-trained artisan has created Irish pubs in Las Vegas and San Diego, designing nearly every element. But his work is not all about being Irish. Just check out the large French antiques, torn from a page of a magazine, that he is recreating for a client.



A \$10,000 toilet paper holder hand carved by Gabriel McKeagney

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