




Tara Collins

CUSTOM WOODWORKER

Innovative and detail-driven custom woodworker with eight years of experience designing and hand-crafting bespoke furniture, millwork, and decorative wood pieces for discerning residential and commercial clients. Expert in traditional hand tool techniques, precision joinery, and wood species selection.

Committed to quality craftsmanship, responsive client collaboration, and delivering pieces that exceed expectations at every stage from concept to completion.

CONTACT

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 Portland, OR

KEY SKILLS

- Bespoke furniture design and construction (tables, chairs, cabinetry, beds)
- Custom millwork and architectural woodwork
- Hand tool mastery: hand planes, chisels, drawknives, spokeshaves
- Precision joinery: mortise and tenon, dovetail, box joint, bridle joint
- Wood species selection and grain matching
- Surface finishing: oil, wax, lacquer, shellac, polyurethane
- Quality assurance and defect reduction
- Client consultation and concept-to-completion design translation
- Workshop management and tool maintenance

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Custom Woodworker | Artisan Creations, Portland, OR | January 2017 – Present

- Designed and hand-crafted 80+ pieces of bespoke furniture and decorative millwork for residential and commercial clients, achieving a 95% client approval rate on first presentation across all completed pieces
- Implemented a formal quality assurance process including material inspection, dry-fit review, and finish testing at each production stage, reducing defects requiring rework by 15% over 3 years
- Worked closely with 40+ clients from initial design concept through delivery, translating verbal and visual inspiration into precise workshop drawings and finished pieces with zero client-requested major revisions
- Selected and sourced premium hardwood species including black walnut, cherry, white oak, and teak from 5 regional suppliers, matching grain patterns and figure to client aesthetic requirements
- Applied a range of surface finishes including oil, wax, shellac, and conversion varnish to 60+ completed pieces, achieving consistent sheen and color accuracy across all deliveries
- Managed all workshop operations including tool maintenance, inventory, material ordering, and project scheduling for a solo practice generating \$180K+ in annual revenue
- Trained 1 junior woodworker in foundational hand tool techniques, joinery methods, and finishing protocols, with the apprentice reaching independent project completion within 12 months

EDUCATION

Diploma in Fine Woodworking

Portland School of Craftsmanship, Portland, OR | March 2017

Relevant Coursework: Furniture Design, Traditional Joinery, Wood Finishing, Workshop Management

CERTIFICATIONS

- OSHA 10-Hour Construction Safety, OSHA, September 2022
- American Woodworker Certified Craftsman, American Woodworker Guild, May 2020