



Millwork specialist manages the entire process

Project management and scheduling skills help millworker complete large luxury project.

Merritt Woodwork, a specialist in high-end luxury millwork, recently finished a traditional style project in East Hampton, New York, that included their woodworking in his-and-her offices, bathrooms and dressing rooms, as well as a theater and library.

Merritt, based in Mentor, Ohio, focus-

es on the art and science of woodworking and joinery for residential estates and superyachts.

The company oversees all operations, including consulting, engineering, carpentry, hardware, architectural metalwork and specialty materials.

“This collection of services enables Merritt to manage the entire process

from design concept to project delivery, ensuring an exacting and finished product delivered anywhere in the world, on time and within budget,” said Michael Merritt, CEO of Merritt Woodwork.

“Merritt’s consulting group is effective with the developing process and leveraging software to reduce overall construction time line for all trades. The

At a glance

Who: Merritt Woodwork

Where: Mentor, Ohio, Lodi, California

What: High-end millwork

Total employees: 300

Plant size: 150,000 square feet

Web site:

www.merrittwoodwork.com

company's clients want to move as fast as possible – perfect detail in record time – it is never fast enough.”

On the East Hampton project, this was a repeat client. Merritt previously worked with the homeowner and interior designer.

Project management

All projects are managed by a project team, led by a project principal. One or two project managers are deployed depending on size and complexity as well as one or two lead project engineers.

From this, Merritt has project coordinators, administration, engineering, production management, plant fabrication, logistics and installation. In all disciplines Merritt uses their own equipment and employees.

The company uses various software: Visual manufacturing for ERP and plant scheduling; Microsoft Projects for project management customized to their needs; Microsoft Office Suite;



Merritt purchased high quality veneer logs and custom sliced them. Flat-cut panels went to panel, door and drawer insets, quarter grain for the casings, base and trims.

and AutoCAD, Revit, Solid Works, Solid Manufacturing Ultimate, Rhino, Alpha CAM, and Inventor.

Solid wood construction

The first step on this project was to buy veneer logs for the cherry and pine rooms and have them custom sawn and dried. The client prefers solid wood construction, so Merritt purchased the highest quality veneer logs and custom sliced them. The flat-cut panels went to panel, door and drawer insets and the quarter grain was used for the casings, cornice, base and trims. The women's bath is in bird's-eye maple veneer.

Merritt is automated in all aspects with most machines using CNC programming, including rip saws, moulders, mortise and tenoners, along with drilling, sawing and veneering. Being a traditional project, there was a lot of moulding and radius milling on the CNC machines.

This traditional-style project featured species including bird's-eye maple, American black cherry, rift white oak, Baltic pine, as well as custom glass and mirrors. Specific to this project, the American black cherry lumber was sourced from premier veneer logs and

Continued...

custom sawn into lumber.

Process improvement

“Merritt has a focused lean plan, we run the business based on hours for all work, all is billable and all is tracked and reviewed,” said Michael Merritt. “Merritt is in a custom business, it is always different but we need to find the common threads and improve.”

“Automation is our strongest suit. We must produce pieces and parts quickly, effectively and accurately, although the assembly, sanding and finish is still an art and is mainly by hand. We are strong schedulers and client committed. It keeps the company focused and on task.”

Merritt has a lot of experience in creating the look of luxury. “Creating

more luxurious interiors in a residential space can be simple, whether it’s the lighting and decor, or architecture and design, there are various ways to update a space to an inviting, comforting atmosphere,” Merritt said.

“Similar to statement walls, adding a statement room can make an impact to a home’s overall space. Finding a few statement pieces can be one way of creating such a space, but simply adding wooded panels, bookshelves and crown moulding can provide that wow factor you are looking for.

“Add a sense of warmth to your home in an unexpected place, by adding wood panels to your ceilings. Incorporating elements of natural wood creates an authentic and decorative focal point for your living space,” Merritt said. “By using lighter color woods

and creating patterns, your room will visually look larger.” **+**

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Automation is seen as a strong suit at Merritt Woodwork, although the assembly, sanding and finish is still an art and are done mainly by hand.



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