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Jonathon Dahl:
Passionate Craftsmanship

Cypress, Texas



Jonathon Dahl: Passionate Craftsmanship

By Kathy Bowen Stolz

We've all heard the expression "If you love what you do, you'll never work a day in your life."

Jonathon Dahl is one of those lucky people who loves what he does and is passionate about creating high-end, design-driven, customized cabinetry and furniture. He often says, "I've never worked a day in my life."

The company started as Jonathon Dahl Woodworks in 1996, a year after Dahl graduated from Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos with a degree in business. After selling office equipment for a year, Jonathon listened to his heart and began crafting furniture in a small two-car garage in Cypress. His business slowly grew from planter boxes and birdhouses sold to local nurseries to custom furniture commissions and cabinetry. A commission to design and build his first custom kitchen in 1999 gave him the confidence to leap into larger cabinetry-related projects, he said.

That same year he married his wife Tori, and the two purchased a 100-year-old farmhouse on three acres. Nestled on the property was a 1,200-sq.-ft. dairy barn, which Jonathon converted to his first true woodworking shop. As his business has grown, so has his shop. In 2013, he added

another 5,000 sq. ft. and has plans to add another 5,000 sq. ft. this year.

Fast forward to present day, the company recently rebranded under the name of "Jonathon Dahl," removing "Woodworks" from the official name. The new look emphasizes the 25-year history of the company, the quality of products it creates and the unparalleled care and attention it gives to clients.

For Jonathon and his employees, who have a combined total of more than 60 years' experience, woodworking is not just a trade, it's an art. Their passion is for creating and producing heirloom-quality cabinetry, no matter what the style. Jonathon Dahl is best known for its meticulous attention to detail. Its craftsmen are driven by the challenge to produce pieces that will stand the test of time in design and durability for its discerning clients, those who appreciate Jonathon Dahl's attention to detail, high quality of finishes and flawless fit at installation. They're dedicated to working together to ensure that each piece tells a story, both about the company and about the folks they are creating for.



Jonathon Dahl often uses paint-grade materials, primarily maple because it sands and paints well. Dahl also prefers to work with rich hardwoods such as walnut, mahogany and white oak. He appreciates the timeless aspects of neutral materials and finishes but also has vast experience with cerrused finishes, glazes and gloss lacquers.

One of Jonathon Dahl's vendors says it all: "You are so different. Nobody's doing it like you are." He and his craftsmen give every step of the process, from design, to fabrication, to the finishing and the installation an extraordinarily high level of attention.

Dahl said, "We treat our cabinetry like furniture." About 75 percent of the company's business is cabinetry while 25 percent comes from furniture, such as coffee tables, farm tables and benches. He frequently uses reclaimed pecan wood for those pieces.

The company's current scope of work for a project may be as small as one vanity or the cabinetry for an entire 12,000-sq.-ft. house that has lots of built-ins. In the future Dahl said he would like to focus on large projects because "they work well in our system."

The company completes 20-25 projects a year, most typically in kitchens where Dahl noted that most of a home's cabinetry dollars are spent. Frequent projects are islands with turned legs, arched vent hoods and wooden countertops, as well as hidden pantries, wine rooms, mud rooms, home offices, secret doors, media cabinets around fireplaces, master baths and master closets.

"We like challenging things that builders and designers bring to us. Pivot doors are very popular right now, but they have to be engineered precisely so they don't sag or scrape the floor. We take a lot of time in the shop to get them to hang and swing properly," he stated.

While Jonathon Dahl does cabinetry beyond the Houston area, the company's work can more typically be found in homes in The Woodlands, River Oaks, Memorial Villages, Tomball and Tanglewood.





cabinetry in Cypress before shipping it to New England, where Jonathon meets the delivery trucks and oversees the installation of every project.

But regardless of where the project or what the project, Jonathon Dahl and his staff focus on their clients' needs and provide creative solutions and the level of service that leads to personal, long-lasting relationships – relationships where attention to detail is at the core.

In 2008, a former client hired Jonathon Dahl to build all of the cabinetry for the client's second home in Bristol, Rhode Island. From this initial project, he established several ongoing working relationships with builders and architects in New England. Jonathon's team builds all

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