



Winner

Best Living Room/Family Room

Room With a View

Birger Juell Ltd.

Chicago

While nothing about this 15,000-square-foot custom log cabin nestled along a lake in the mountains of Lake Placid, N.Y., is ordinary, when it came to this room, the designer wanted something extraordinary. That's when Birger Juell Ltd. became involved.

"She wanted something completely unique tailored to her customer's home," says Chuck Crispin, president. Another company had already installed reclaimed white oak random-width plank in the rest of the home, but for this room, which the client refers to as "the perch," and the foyer, the designer was looking for a floor that utilized the design on a credenza in the hallway. Sounds simple enough, but developing the design took a laborious six months, with the designer comparing the process to birthing a baby.

Once the layout was settled, Crispin traveled to the job site to do a site template, checking the accuracy of the measurements they had been given, and meet with the designer to choose species. Crispin had envisioned something more subdued, but the designer chose a "surprisingly vivid color palette," he says, including amarillo, heavily figured bird's-eye maple, wenge, wal-

nut and a red-toned wood called rengas.

With the template in hand and species chosen, creation of the floor could begin. The final design was carefully detailed in an AutoCAD program, but each piece of the floor was painstakingly hand-cut, hand-scraped, colored and oiled in signature Birger Juell style at the company's shop in Chicago.

As often happens, the project came down to the last minute. The entire floor was overnighted to the job site, where it took the installers about five days to put it together.

"Everybody was thrilled with the final product; the owner was very pleased," says Crispin, who can't reveal the owner's identity due to a confidentiality agreement.

The floor also pleased the company's namesake, who at age 90 was present to collect the floor's trophy at the awards dinner at the NWFA Convention in Denver. Juell is still involved in the day-to-day operations of the company: "He is still creating designs for floors; he's still an active member of the sales team," Crispin says, adding that Juell is hoping to see everyone again next year at the convention in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Given the company's track record, Juell will likely not only see everyone, but also collect more Wood Floor of the Year trophies.—*K.M.W.*



Photo: Todd Bissonette, RTB Enterprises, Lake Placid, N.Y.

Designer:

Ann S. Oleary
(Evergreen House)

AutoCAD Design:

Hedy Dietzen,
Candace Mountain

Shop Personnel:

Quentin Grays (supervisor), Phil Bennett, Francisco Valencia, Gonzalo Vidana, Javier DeJesus, Telefloro Gonzales, Luis A. Abarca, Luis M. Abarca, Hugo A. Carranza, Samuel Garcia, Bejamin Matrinez, Fredi Reyes, Mario Reyes, Jerry Lee Shirley, Alejandro Valle, Leopoldo Villar

Installers:

Chuck Norris, Kevin Smith

Adhesive:

Bostik Inc.

Suppliers listed in **boldface** are **advertisers in this issue.**