

## Traditionally Beautiful

NWFA 2009 Best Commercial/Showroom (CNC/Laser-Cut)

Birger Juell Ltd. (Chicago)



"I don't think I fall in love as much as I used to with any one thing; now I'm more interested in: Does it fit? Does it look like it belongs here? That's one of the things I like about the Clive Christian showroom," says Chuck Crispin, president at Birger Juell Ltd. The ultra-high-end English furniture and cabinet company usually uses stone flooring for its showroom floors, but for this room, a wood floor that would complement the cherry and yew wood on the walls was desired, and Birger Juell Ltd. provided a perfect fit for its neighbor in Chicago's Merchandise Mart.

The floor pattern is a traditional chain-style parquet that is "souped up a little bit," Crispin says. The main floor is stained walnut, while the chain linking the pattern features wenge, walnut and a wood the company calls Peruvian gold. The square centers are flame-figured crotch walnut. "They're really exquisite little jewels in the middle of the parquet," Crispin notes.

Birger Juell Ltd. parquets are traditionally hand-cut, but this project marks the first collaboration between the company and John Yarema, wherein Yarema laser-cut the parquet and a torch inlay resembling one of the Clive Christian logos. Birger Juell Ltd. workers then hand-scraped, oiled and finished the floor in traditional Birger Juell Ltd. style, resulting in what has become another Birger Juell Ltd. tradition: a Wood Floor of the Year trophy.

Adhesive: **Bostik Inc.** | Filler: Timbermate USA | Finish: **Dura Seal** | Medallion, Wood Flooring: John Yarema | Saws: Festool