

# TAKING IT PERSONALLY

By Gina Samarotto







When the award winning design team of McGaw and McGaw sets out to create distinctive, completely personal spaces for their clients; choosing widely available elements from a catalog or showroom just won't do. As co-founders of the upscale Residential Interiors Group, John and Marilyn McGaw have upped the creative ante and expanded their reach by not just designing distinctive, one of kind projects but by fabricating many of the furnishings and elements used in the rooms themselves.

The results are inimitable, utterly unique spaces the design-driven power couple is known for. Their work not only reflects the style and personality of the clients, but the impeccable aesthetic sensibilities of the designers themselves. Going far beyond the custom window treatments offered by more mainstream design firms, Residential Interiors Group creates bespoke furniture, mouldings – all the custom elements that together give new meaning to the word 'personalized' as it pertains to interior design.

"In creating the one of a kind pieces we use in our projects, we are afforded the ability to customize the fabric, finish and dimensions. We can build in any other specifications necessary to accomplish our goals for our client's home," explains Marilyn McGaw, Principal Designer for the boutique firm.









## DESIGN

That customization continues throughout the entire process with John McGaw providing operational attention to detail, ensuring each element is installed to meet "design intent" and bringing their clients a level of distinction more traditional design channels can only dream of. "Our goal is to create unexpected 'memory points' with one-of-a-kind furniture pieces that stand the test of time," John explains. "The design and manufacturing of custom furniture allows an unlimited expression of our design vision: a classic approach with unique twists for whimsy and serendipity."

John and Marilyn originally establishing Residential Interiors Group in the Pacific Northwest in 1992. As the company grew, the McGaws set their sights on the sunny skies, centralized location and well-heeled clientele offered by Florida's affluent Gold Coast and in 2004, moved operations from Seattle, Washington to Palm Beach where they are now based. It is here that they work their magic, creating show stopping interiors for both residential and hospitality industry clients. In addition to having left their fashionable mark on some of the most stunning private homes from the Pacific Northwest to Florida's sunny shores, the couple's signature style can be found within hotel rooms, ocean liner suites and other deluxe accommodations on land and at sea.

Exemplifying the design savoir faire for which they are known is one of the Residential Interior Group's latest projects; a 3,200sf luxury residence in Palm Beach's tony condominium community, The Enclave. The homeowners, New Yorkers intent on creating their own place in the sun; called upon the McGaws to design their snowbird haven. The clients asked for a space that would combine the luxury and elegance they loved while in fusing their tropical retreat with a casual, stylish aura.







Focusing their design on the stunning views surrounding the home on three sides, the McGaws dressed the ceilings in a delicate shade of pale blue; inviting the oceans watery reflection to wash over the space, drenching it in natural light and warm color. Custom, art deco-inspired mouldings were installed to frame the windows while simultaneously providing a clever hiding space for the recessed ambient lighting. Repeating the architecture found in the rotunda that anchors the home's entry, the McGaws crafted several pieces of custom furnishing including a strikingly curvaceous pair of Martini chairs. Collectively, the space delivers a stunning, not-so-subtle nod to the dramatic impact custom pieces can bring. With the addition of brilliantly honed, beige marble floors, custom rugs created in the same sandy hues and sparking crystal light fixtures the overall effect is one that makes guests feel as if they are relaxing on an impossibly chic, fabulously well appointed beach.

"We love to create unique homes we would like to visit or live in. We want our clients to stand out in their environment". While the McGaws might like to see their clients stand out in their environments, the rooms shine quite brightly on their own. As brightly, in fact, as the firm that creates them.

