



# HISTORIC HOTEL RENOVATION DONE IN THE STYLE OF JEFFERSON.



**T**he Jefferson Hotel in Washington, D.C. reopened its doors on August 31, 2009 following this historic facility's most significant transformation to date. An enlightened renovation of the 99-room Beaux Arts jewel has produced an exceptionally fine small hotel destined once again to cater to Washington's elite – U.S. Presidents, power brokers, foreign diplomats and dignitaries, and international celebrities.





THE HOMEY LIBRARY is packed floor to ceiling with quartered African Mahogany bookcases and raised paneling.





Presiding over the corners of 16th and M Streets, NW, just four blocks from the White House, the new Jefferson has introduced the mid-Atlantic's only spa suite, as well as expansive top-floor presidential and bridal suites, a restaurant and lounge that are quickly becoming the talk of the town, intimate meeting space, an exclusive spa, and 24-hour fitness facilities.

Engaged to handle the renovation was the architectural firm of Forrest Perkins, located in Washington, D.C. and the architectural wood-working firm of Gaithersburg Cabinetry and Millwork, Inc., an AWI member firm located in Warrenton, Virginia.

"The goal of the renovation was both to preserve and renew the hotel's reputation for excellence, understated luxury, sense of privacy and attention to detail in every way," explains Forrest Perkins' Paul Hodges. "Our aim was to have the guest experience an underlying sense of idleness in harmony with the comforts of home."

He continues, "It was the owner's vision to have the best small luxury hotel in the nation's capitol, with the feel of an elegant 18th century Parisian apartment. A subtle design nod was given to the hotel's namesake as influenced by his love of French culture. A studious effort was also made to tether some design elements to Monticello. Every attention was given to detail, and in many cases the detail was to keep it simple."

## AT A GLANCE:

AWI MANUFACTURING MEMBER:

**Gaithersburg Cabinet & Millwork, Inc.**

LOCATION: **Warrenton, Virginia**

FOUNDED: **1981**

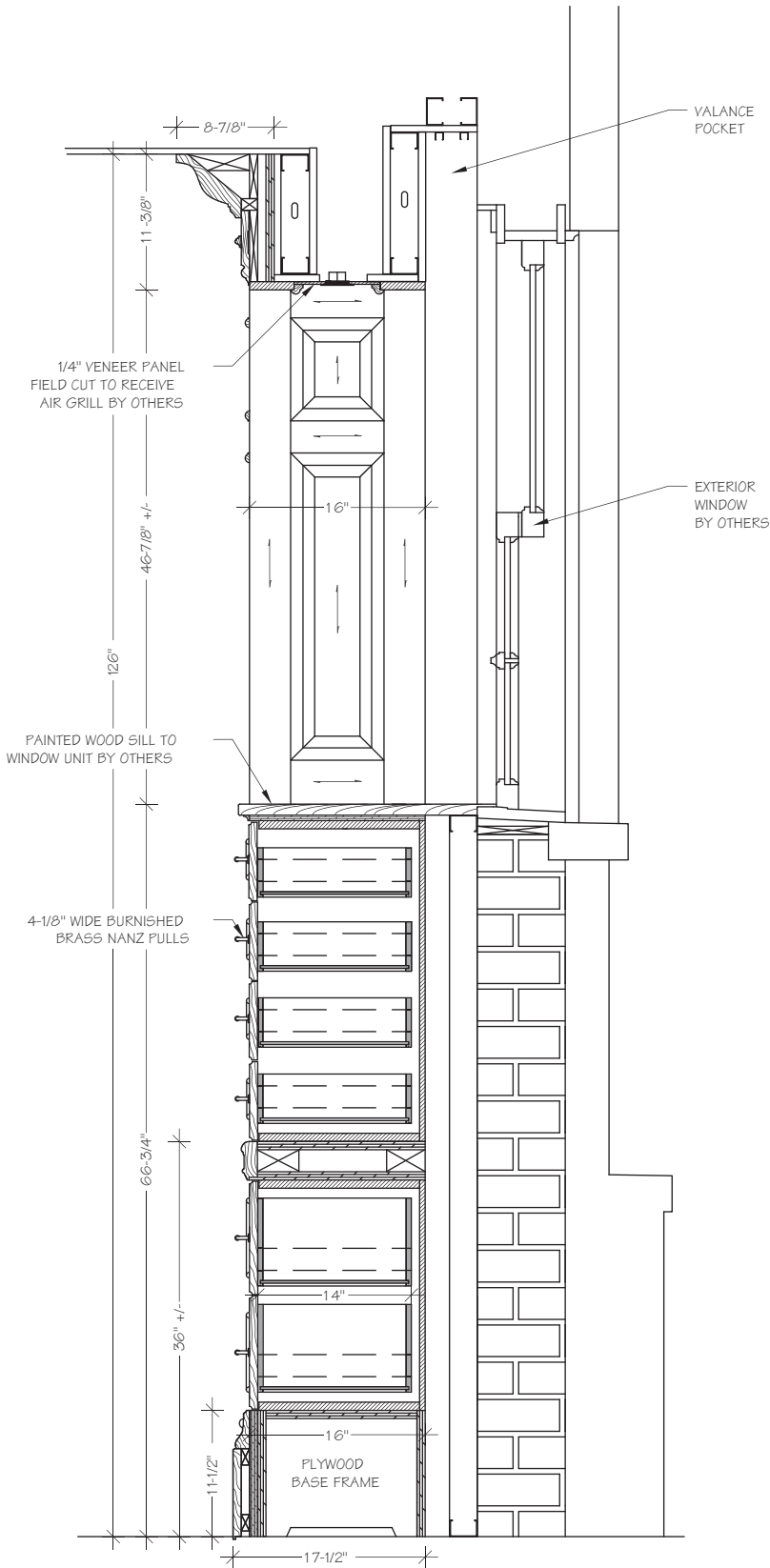
FACILITY: **30,000 square feet**

EMPLOYEES: **50**

SERVICES: **State-of-the-art woodwork manufacturing and metal fabrication**

*"We have the willingness and flexibility to work as team players to achieve the desired quality and on-time completion of a project."*

**– Roger Parker, Project and Engineering Manager**



○ VERTICAL SECTION  
at Exterior Wall

**ELEGANT WOODWORK**

Gaithersburg Cabinetry and Millwork produced for the project two full-service bars of African Mahogany hardwoods and veneers; raised wall paneling and cabinetry of historic, reclaimed heart Pine in the private dining room; full height African Mahogany raised paneling in the library, meeting room and lounge; and paint grade wall panels and wainscot throughout the space.

The hotel’s library seems to top everyone’s favorite list. Hodges finds it the most noteworthy because it is adorned with floor-to-ceiling Mahogany raised walls, book shelves, drawers, casings and coffered ceilings. Custom wood shutters were built for the windows of the room. The raised panel jamb extensions are hinged to discretely hide the shutters when not in use, and blend seamlessly with them when deployed.

“This same type of attention to detail was evident in the woodworker’s foresight to select the best pieces of stock for the most deserving components,” he explains. “As users move through the spaces they have the opportunity to see the finest character of the natural wood in locations that the impulse is to touch. This room called to the artist in the craftsman, and the end result is evidence that Gaithersburg answered the call with a sense of professionalism worthy of the highest praise.”

The library was definitely a challenge, adds Roger Parker of Gaithersburg Millwork. “It required intricate detailing and engineering to work with the existing structure. The completed room has a very warm and homey feel to it.”

**HISTORIC WOODWORK**

The historic reclaimed and distressed heart Pine in the private dining room was also a unique challenge, he continues. Following a meeting





▲ THE PRIVATE DINING ROOM, which holds a vast wine collection, is warmly clad in distressed heart Pine.



▲ UNDERSTATED ELEGANCE AND COMFORT are a hallmark of the guest rooms.





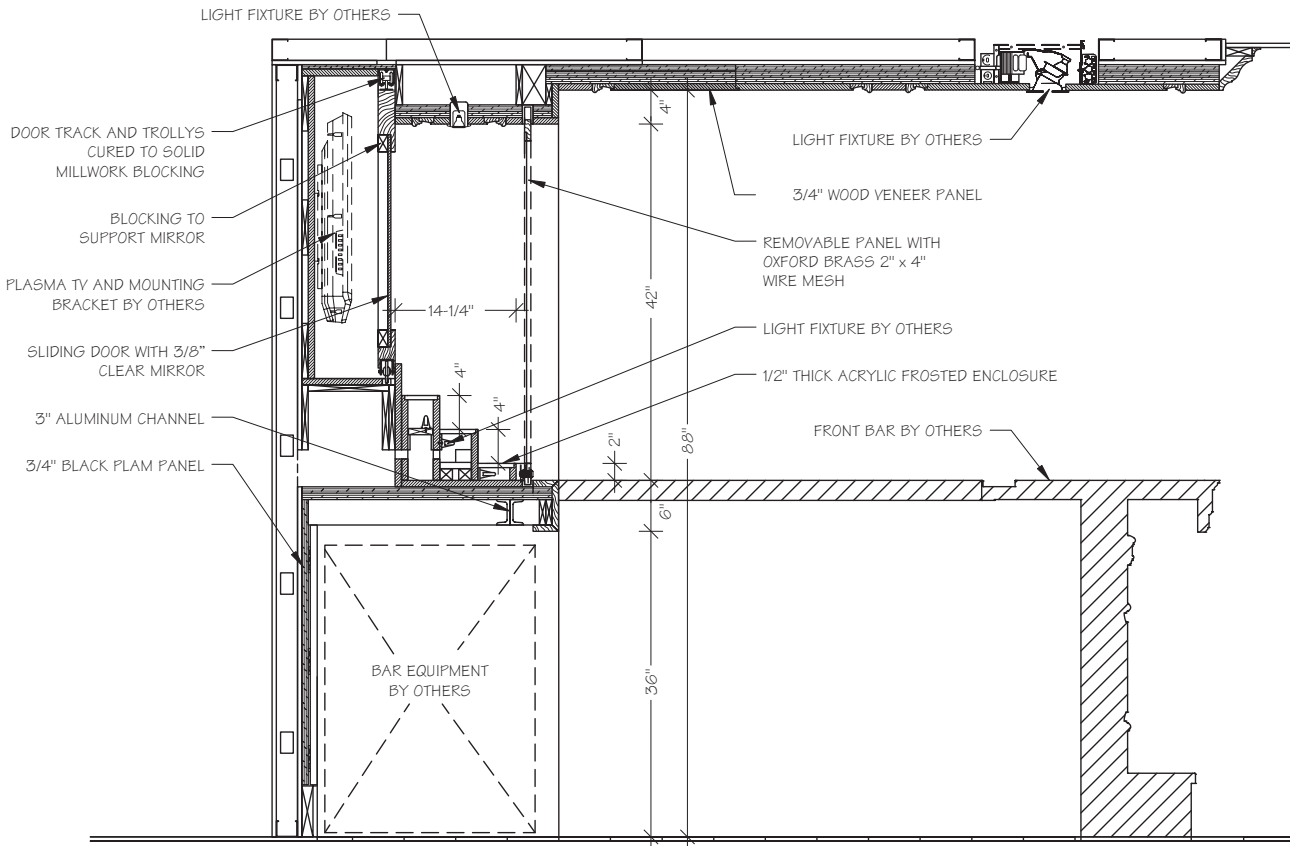
▲ THE AWI MEMBER FIRM fabricated two beautiful full-service bars of African Mahogany hardwood and veneer for the hotel.

▶ A CLOSEUP OF THE MAHOGANY raised paneling found throughout the public spaces at the hotel.

with the architect, designer and general contractor, “we all agreed on the degree of distress and the exact look they had in mind. When the raw material was delivered it was still in a very rough state. It took many attempts of machine work and sanding to recreate and maintain the look. Each piece of lumber had its own personality and had to be worked to leave the right amount of distress. It ended up with a very pleasing rich look.”

Distressed Pine was used for the flooring as well as all the woodwork in the dining room which holds the hotel’s vast wine collection. “The Heart Pine gives the room a special ambience that speaks to the preserva-





VERTICAL SECTION  
North Bar

tion of history, aged to perfection with natural character in every board,” describes Hodges. “The dining room is by far the most popular with the hotel’s many guests.”

Woodwork found throughout all the public spaces is paint grade, with all paint hand applied by brush. “The handmade nature of the brush strokes gave the newly completed woodwork a natural character and sense of personal history,” says Hodges. “Thomas Jefferson’s love of French imports

drove the decision to use Mahogany for the majority of woodwork on the first floor.”

### HISTORIC TEAMWORK

“Gaithersburg Millwork was an integral member of the design and construction team,” adds Hodges. “They demonstrated a strong sense of ownership in the team process, as well as the finished product. They were proactive in identifying conflicting field conditions, resolute course of action,

confirmative documentation and timely execution.”

The workmanship and quality provided by the architectural woodworking firm was “stellar,” summarizes Franck Arnold, hotel owner. “From its elegant guest rooms to public spaces, The Jefferson’s interiors are filled with historical details and Jeffersonian influences. Eclectic antiques and artifacts, documents bearing Thomas Jefferson’s signature, and vintage books await guests’ discovery at every turn.”

Project:	Jefferson Hotel Renovation	Washington, DC
Woodworker:	Gaithersburg Cabinetry & Millwork, Inc.	Warrenton, VA
Architect:	Forrest Perkins	Washington, DC
General Contractor:	Sigal Construction	Arlington, VA
Photographer:	Mary Parker	Round Hill, VA