



"It's not unusual for one of my doors to take between 60 to 100 hours, and sometimes months, to build," says Wayne Hausknecht, shown here in his Tucson studio. *Opposite:* Hausknecht constructed the doors of the Sacred Heart Parish church in Nogales using three levels of solid Honduras mahogany.

Precision is critical for woodworker Wayne Hausknecht, who handcrafts custom entry doors, decorative gates and fine furnishings out of his one-man shop, WGH Woodworking, in downtown Tucson. Hausknecht first visualizes the final product in three dimensions before milling the wood—a mix of select premium hardwoods, softwoods and native mesquite—and then marking his cuts. “If the cut is wrong, the inside pieces won’t clamp together in the right way and you’ll have to do it all over again,” he says, preferring traditional mortise-and-tenon joinery to nails or dowel joints. “This technique takes longer, but it’s stronger and will help the doors last practically forever.” Hausknecht started out in construction building cabinets and doors for custom adobe homes before striking out on his own, and more than three decades later, he is still deeply engaged with his work. “I can lose hours as I’m making something,” Hausknecht says. “I don’t ever think about changing jobs or retiring, because there’s nothing to retire from. This is just what I do.” *wghwoodworking.com; 520.798.1133*

Hausknecht appreciates the fine craftsmanship of the furnishings by Tucson’s Arroyo Design, as seen in the company’s Pierce credenza fashioned from quality mesquite.



DOOR TO DOOR

WAYNE HAUSKNECHT



I LOVE WHAT I DO BECAUSE...

I get to experience the whole process, from coming up with the design, to fitting the pieces together, to finally seeing my vision take shape.

DESIGN STYLE YOU FIND MOST ENGAGING:

Because I live here in the Southwest, I’m very influenced by the traditional Spanish architecture and furniture of the area. A lot of it is intricate, custom built and has its own unique style.

FAVORITE DECORATING SOURCES:

Locally, I do a lot of collaborations with José Luis Tolano at Wm. Flores and Son. He has forged all the wrought iron for my doors for the last 25 years. I am also fond of the work by J. Swiss & Company and Arroyo Design. The latter has elegant designs and perfect proportions.

DESCRIBE YOUR HOME.

I bought a house a year ago, gutted it, and am now putting it back together. Everything in it will be handmade, either by me or by other craftsmen I have met over the years.