

Style Secrets: One-of-a-kind Furniture

R.L. Goins-designed four-panel Dutch screen



5 ■ **R.L. GOINS.** Maybe you've longed for one of its signature hand-painted screens. Or seen the 20-foot replica of the Eiffel Tower that was built for a DIFFA event—now at home in front of Jane Marsden at 2300 Peachtree Street.

R.L. Goins has been serving up custom creations since 1996, its to-the-trade designs reaching well beyond the scope of furniture per se to also comprise a wide variety of surfaces—including walls, canvas, silk, leather, glass and mirror. (Additionally, Raymond Goins, the company's customized high-end furniture collection—available through the Grizzel and Mann showroom—was introduced in 2001.) And it's more than the forms that are eye-catching; finishes include everything from original chinoiserie and landscapes to deeply honed lacquer and exquisite verre eglomise.

"My studio has been referred to as a modern-day 'Jansen' workshop," says founder

Raymond L. Goins. "We handle the designer's every wish; there's no end to our design and production capabilities. We've done beds and screens, soft furnishings and lighting." And where does this tastemaker get his inspiration? "I'm a romantic," he says. "I am fascinated by history, culture and art and captivated by creating new works."



Detail of an R.L. Goins hand-painted silk screen

R.L. GOINS

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Ballacchino designed custom cabinets around this column to separate a living area.



6 ■ **BALLACCHINO DESIGNS.** In business for 17 years, **Michael Ballacchino** prides himself on helping clients complete their artistic visions through the design and fabrication of one-of-a-kind pieces. It may be a stunning piece of freestanding furniture or an exquisite built-in, but each design—whatever the style—transcends both time and trends.

"My source of inspiration has changed over time, but the majority of my creativity strangely comes from classical architecture abroad," says the designer, who specializes in working with all varieties of wood as well as metal and glass. And, frequently, a single creation isn't enough for his clients; one seems to lead to another. One of his recent projects, for example, included a modern kitchen in stainless steel and wenge wood, an entertainment center in the living room, and a fireplace wall complete with two 9-foot-tall display cabinets and a bronzed aluminum fireplace surround.

His projects may be varied, but they all have a common denominator. Each design is just as functional as it is fashionable, proving not only that form *follows* function, but form *fulfills* function, too.

BALLACCHINO DESIGN

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