

## Furniture Row: Tailored comfort

Oregonian, The (Portland, OR) - Thursday, March 22, 2007

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SUMMARY: Custom pieces fit you and your home

So, you're looking for something other than a standard 90ish-inch sofa to fit an expansive or diminutive room.

Maybe you're tall and want the seat deeper or you're short and want the seat shallower.

Or maybe you're all about creating your own style with high backs, angled arms, contrasting seat cushions and piping.

Custom-made upholstered furniture may be the way to go --and you may be surprised to learn that it's available for about what you'd pay for merchandise at a high-quality furniture store.

But finding the right maker takes a bit more effort than pulling into a shopping mall.

Design Furnishings International sells only through architects and interior designers, says William Archer, showroom manager. DFI's custom sofa and chair frames are carved in Mexico; all pieces are upholstered and finished in its Portland workshop with fabric supplied by the designer and client.

Interior designer Donna Hanna is a devotee of Trio Furniture & Design Inc. She says she's worked with them for years to come up with eye-catching colorful designs in a variety of materials.

Trio, which sells both to the public and to the trade, encourages clients to visit for a sit test --not unlike a final fitting for a bride's gown. Adjusting the pitch of the seat isn't an unusual request before upholstering, says Gina Doyl, president.

Custom furniture is an ideal solution for unusual or tricky spaces, making it a favorite choice for designers and architects who work on a lot of lofts and high-rises.

Kepler's Furniture, also open to the public, was selected by GBD Architects, which is creating interiors for the condominium buildings in the South Waterfront development.

The starting price for a basic sofa with hand-tied coil springs is \$1,850, says Marvin Ankele, owner of Kepler's. Upholstery fabric is additional. Of course, prices can spiral up, depending on detail and cost of material.

There are other advantages to using local custom makers. One is the elimination of shipping costs, which can add a few hundred dollars for goods made in the furniture centers of the Southeast. Shipping is also where damage is most likely to occur, says Shirley Roggen, another local designer whose clients frequently request custom work.

Another plus for local custom work is being able to get your furniture faster than the customary 12-16 weeks or more that it can take to get it from a national retailer.

Four to six weeks is fairly standard for Castellano Custom Furniture, says owner Joe

Castellano, whose company has been making one-of-a-kind goods for more than 25 years. Design assistance is a complimentary feature at all the makers that are open to the public.

If you're prepared to spend for quality and willing to put in a little extra effort, you could have furniture that suits your frame like a glove.

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**Edition:** Sunrise

**Section:** Homes and Gardens

**Page:** 12

**Record Number:** MERLIN\_9576602

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