

Parquetry Landscape

When Jason Andrew Hernandez creates a parquetry tableau, fitting together small rectangles of thick, shopsawn veneer in a geometric pattern for one of his tables or cabinets, he spends a lot of time up on a stepladder looking down at his creation-in-progress and deciding how the next piece of wood should be placed. “It’s a bit of a jigsaw puzzle,” he says, finding the right place for each piece. In the case of this coffee table, which was commissioned as a wedding gift, that



elevated perspective was especially appropriate. The wedding joined a landscape architect to a teacher of agriculture, and Hernandez decided that the parquetry pattern, executed in claro walnut and English walnut, would represent an aerial view of farmland—with a road, in holly, running through it. Hernandez designed a trestle base in the Mid-Century Modern style to support the top without competing with it. And he used a conversion varnish to bring out the rich, loamy browns of the landscape he’d created.

—Jonathan Binzen

Photos: Mark Stein



How They Did It Turn to p. 89 to see how Hernandez pieced together the parquetry tabletop.

Pro Portfolio To see an audio slide show with details on this table and more of Hernandez’s furniture, go to FineWoodworking.com/extras.

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