

Massachusetts Ming

John Cameron was channeling 500-year-old Ming Dynasty furniture when he designed this chair. He also was shadowing one of his favorite modern chairmakers, the Danish designer Hans Wegner, who produced some of the most iconic chairs of the 20th century by translating classic Chinese chairs into the language of Scandinavian Modern. When Cameron, of Gloucester, Mass., realized that Wegner had never interpreted the Chinese “official’s hat” armchair—one of his own favorites, with its beautiful crest rail and squiggled arm support—he knew he had discovered fresh ground to explore. Above the seat, Cameron’s chair mirrors the aesthetics of the Eastern original; but from the seat down it is distinctly Western in style and structure. Blending these two traditions into a chair that speaks in one voice is no easy trick. Here’s a tip of the official’s hat to Mr. Cameron.

—Jonathan Binzen



Photo: Bill Truslow

How They Did It Turn to p. 90 for details on how Cameron blended Eastern and Western styles in this chair.

Pro Portfolio To learn more about this chair and other pieces by John Cameron, go to FineWoodworking.com/extras.

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