

Butternut Beauty

In Garrett Hack's furniture, Shaker lines blend with Federal classicism.

But there's also playfulness in proportions, richness in materials, and usually a decorative surprise or two.

In this new bureau he's combined butternut—walnut's fraternal twin, which

Hack calls "a joy to work"—with rosewood pulls, ebony cock beading and quarter-columns, and two pairs of tiny drawers in walnut, one with wavy inlays of abalone, the other tucked around the side of the case in another deviation from the standard script.



Built for a client in Charleston, S.C., and destined to travel up a narrow staircase to the third floor of a 200-year-old house, Hack's new bureau was fashioned to be as light as possible. He assembled the case with sliding dovetails, which saved weight by enabling him to dispense with a subtop

and a separate base. And he used light secondary woods—pine for the back, bottom, and center divider, white cedar for the drawer bottoms—and made these parts as thin as practical. He proved in the process that less bulk can mean more beauty.

—Jonathan Binzen



Photos: Bill Truslow

How They Did It Turn to p. 90 to see how Hack designed the tiny side drawers on this bureau.

Slide Show To see a slide show with more exceptional work from Hack, go to FineWoodworking.com/extras.

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