

# PROFILE

## Mark Levin

**S**ome people walk into a library and see books, but on a fateful day in 1972 as he perused *Craft Horizon* and some other magazines at the Kent State library, Mark Levin saw his future—in a photo of a Wendell Castle table.

“I didn’t know who he was at the time,” Levin recalls, “but I made a decision right there and then to go into woodworking, pre-med be damned.”

These days Levin’s own tables are winning national awards, including a NICHE Award two years in a row, but his career path hasn’t been as direct as he had pictured. Pre-med gave way to architecture before Levin returned to his home state to study at Northern Illinois University. There he worked with Bobby Falwell, who had done graduate study under Castle’s supervision. Further primed to launch into woodworking full time, Levin met resistance from his father, who insisted he finish a degree. After graduating, Levin spent a decade in the Chicago area in his own studio, developing a lucrative office furnishings line. A one-year break turned into 11 years of working in sales for a woodworking supply company, “learning from a businessman’s businessman,” mentor Alan Baer.



*Levin capitalizes on color, detail and silhouette—walnut splines on the stained red oak Duet Bench (above), butternut splines on the walnut Audrey Hepburn Leaf Shelf (top) and the sensual Grace Kelly Desk. Recently he’s been at work on a Flowers in the Round series.*

capable of imagining and creating objects as beautiful as anything found in nature, “be it a piece of furniture, a building or a car.”

—Jody Wright

### Mark Levin

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*Mark Levin, in his New Mexico studio, laminates quadrants of his “Georgi Mav Table” (above), which won a 2003 NICHE Award. His “Leaf Coffee Table #22” won in 2002.*

