

dining table

clients' need

a timeless gathering place for meals, homework and conversation yet able to dress up for dinner parties

clients' design aesthetic

clean, simple. elegant

materials

american elm – legs

european elm – top

size

28" x 42" x 8'

the process

because of this table's clean, simple lines, I wanted to use woods that were visually striking yet still complemented the table's purpose. I believe in urban harvesting – the use of trees that have been removed from a local urban landscape for a purpose greater than chipper fodder.

after searching the stashes of four harvesters in my area, I selected slabs from an american elm tree removed from a backyard in lafayette and a european elm from a park in sacramento.

to give the table some subtle, distinct characteristics, I glued up multiple boards into an oversized table top slab, making it possible to cut the aprons and the top surface from the same piece. This created continuous grain, "waterfalling" over the edges of the top and down the table aprons. the grain on the legs was treated in a similar way, creating continuous grain running down the sides of the legs from the top.

the "waterfall" grain treatment required miter cuts on all the edges. because a miter joint can be a weak connection, I joined all the mitered edges in the table legs with a full-blind, multiple spline joint – one of the strongest joints I know. (a locking miter joint was used to join the long edges on the table top and apron.)

I find this table a satisfying role for some trees that "had to come down."



left, top to bottom – glued-up boards with aprons cut to create "waterfall" grain; detail of finished table showing "waterfall" grain; cutting splined joints for table legs.

right, above – top 3 images, discovering the american elm seasoned slabs; milling a slab to a manageable dimension; first board through the planer.

middle 3 photos – searching through 3 stacks of european elm for the perfect boards. bottom photo – at home



M. Carol
510.339.8769
mcarol.com