

“It’s the act of deliberately making something complicated so it can’t be done by machines.”

—CRISTIAN WICHA, FOUNDER, FLYING FISH

Board Rules

Falls Church furniture designer Cristian Wicha creates new reasons to get atop a board this winter.

Follow **Cristian Wicha** (cristianwicha.com) through his Falls Church home, and there’s no doubt the furniture-maker designs with movement on his mind. His Cassini TV cabinet was inspired by the spacecraft mission to Saturn; the Sine console is named for the wave-like trigonometric graph; and his Fin coffee table is shaped like a surfboard’s fin. It’s only natural, then, that this lifelong surfer, skier and skateboarder also applies his woodworking skills to the movement that propels his passions. Since he left the Chantilly-based BDI Furniture to go on his own in 2009, Wicha has developed a side business called Flying Fish (flyingfishskateboards.com), a line of meticulously sculpted skate-, surf- and snowboards (from \$250, \$750 and \$650, respectively). “There’s definitely a feeling you get when you’re happy with your equipment, [and when] you’re happy with your board, and it’s just a flowing sensation,” he says, which is heightened in the knowledge that he made it himself—and each is ready for testing at area parks, Aspen or, in the case of his surfboards, a trek to catch one glorious set after another at a new surf playground in Costa Rica. He compares his mission to art nouveau: “It’s the act of deliberately making something complicated so it can’t be done by machines. I go through each layer of wood. It’s me doing every step of this process. That’s what contributes to a quality board.”

LONGBOARD ART

WICHA BUILT FOUR MOLDS TO VARY THE SHAPE OF HIS FLYING FISH SKATEBOARDS AND CREATED TEMPLATES FOR THE WALNUT VENEER THAT TOPS SEVEN LAYERS OF MAPLE. THE RESULT CAN JUST AS EASILY HANG ON THE WALL AS RIDE THE RAILS, BUT MAKE NO MISTAKE, HE SAYS, “THEY’RE MANUFACTURED TO PERFORM.”

FAST COMPANY Artisan Cristian Wicha makes handcrafted skate-, snow- and surfboards.