

# edge

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The daughter of a naval officer and the youngest of five siblings, Marguerite V. Rodgers was born in Bethesda, Md., in 1953. Her family moved from home to home during Rodgers' formative years until finally settling in Maine, where Rodgers was influenced as much by her father's ingenuity as by her mother's appreciation for beautiful things.

Fascinated by composition and color, materials and craft, Rodgers arrived in Philadelphia as a college freshman in 1972 and soon began to explore media ranging from fibers to wood. "The faculty was incredibly diverse, with experience including commercial prototype design to those specializing in commissioned work to individuals who crafted art furniture for gallery exhibitions," Rodgers recalls. "The environment was inherently collaborative and my classmates, extraordinary. I still keep in touch with many of them."

By her sophomore year, Rodgers was designing and crafting commissioned furniture for clients. By the end of her junior year, she had launched a long-term independent study program, using 18th century construction techniques and the help of friends to build a barn on her parents' property in Maine.

Rodgers' talent for design and her growing aptitude for construction led to a series of gallery, boutique and residential commissions following her graduation from the University of the Arts. Frequently collaborating with other artists, Rodgers built the furnishings in her own woodworking shop while working toward a certificate in interior design.

In 1993, Rodgers took on the design of Striped Bass, a nationally recognized establishment about which *Esquire* magazine restaurant critic John Mariani would later say, "showed Philadelphia what was possible at the high end." Striped Bass was designated "Restaurant of the Year" by *Esquire*, an honor that 10 years later would be associated with Lacroix at the Rittenhouse, another Rodgers commission.

Meanwhile, Rodgers' work for residential clients was winning accolades of its own. Designing the interiors of private homes, apartments and condominiums in Boston, Connecticut, Philadelphia, Manhattan and the Bahamas, Rodgers earned the respect and the loyalty of clients who appreciated the firm's steadfast commitment to listening well, designing artfully and seeing all stages of each installation through.

Open the door to the offices of Marguerite Rodgers Ltd. and chances are you'll be greeted by a cat; you'll also likely hear laughter. You'll see the concept boards that trace the history of projects and ideas. You'll see artifacts and objects that reflect the firm's work on private clubs, hotels, condominiums, residential spaces within schools and universities, high-end restaurants, and private residences. Located in a former warehouse building in Philadelphia, Marguerite Rodgers Ltd.'s office is a warm, inspired place.

The 20 people who work with Rodgers share her commitment to craft, her ability to listen and her pleasure in responding to and satisfying client sensibilities. They are interior designers and architects, people with a flair for color, texture and materials. They are original thinkers who pay close attention to the kind of details that set custom furniture, cabinetry and accessories apart.

As Rodgers sees it, every interior design commission represents a chance to create something that never existed before – an opportunity to step inside a client's dreams and fashion a new world. "What continues to push me creatively are relationships, be it with clients or artisans; I find opportunity through people. It's really fun. I love to play with new materials, work with talented people and inspire bold ideas," Rodgers says.

And since 1980, Marguerite Rodgers Ltd. has been doing just that – listening well, imagining out loud and forging unforgettable spaces.



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## MARGUERITE V. RODGERS

A WELL-DESIGNED LIFE



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