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JOINT ADVENTURE

MITCHELL GOLD + BOB WILLIAMS

WRITTEN BY NINA KORMAN



Mitchell Gold and Bob Williams, owners of the ultra-successful furniture company that bears their name, are in a car, speeding through rural North Carolina on a weekday morning. Moving forward quickly is an apt metaphor for their business, which is now celebrating its 30th anniversary. Gold and Williams initially founded a factory in Taylorsville to ensure

superior, American-made products, then proceeded to take care of their now 900-plus employees by establishing on-site day care, a gym, a health center and a café. Their progressive policies rocked the furniture industry, and their products—vintage-style leather club chairs and seating slipcovered in casual fabrics—did too. The duo spoke with *Luxe* about their time in the industry. mgbwhome.com

How does 30 feel? **MG:** Weird and interesting and great. We just hired a CEO, Allison O'Connor, to spearhead things, nurture our team and position us for even bigger and better growth in the future.

Greatest lesson learned while in business? **BW:** Follow your gut. If you don't have that really deep feeling about something, it may not be quite perfect. So many people let others get in their minds or talk them out of stuff, then things go kind of haywire.

Proudest accomplishment as a company? **BW:** Day care. We started it 22 years ago. Since then we've had about 70 kids there all the time. You get to see them grow up.

What's next? **MG:** A whole new take on leather club chairs in exciting colors, like leaf green, deep red and peacock blue (shown). Some of the silhouettes are classic modern while others have a very new traditional look.

A COLORFUL LIFE

CARLETON VARNEY RELEASES HIS LATEST VOLUME, *ROOMS TO REMEMBER*

Color, pattern, contrast and supreme confidence: All are terms that describe the rooms of Carleton Varney, the business associate and disciple of designer Dorothy Draper, whose firm he purchased following her 1969 death. Featuring jewel-toned walls, snowy white trim, elegant furnishings and carpets festooned with a wildly blooming garden of florals, the singular spaces Varney creates highlight the lessons he learned from his stylistic sensei and have cemented his role as interior designer to American presidents, governors and Hollywood celebrities as well as the mind behind stately embassies and magnificent hotels around the world. One of those majestic hostleries, the historic 397-room Grand Hotel, on Michigan's Mackinac Island since 1887, is the subject of Varney's 36th book, *Rooms to Remember*. Since 1976, Varney has been refreshing spaces at the Grand, and here he leads a tour of its 43 Named Suites, distinctive lodgings devoted to and inspired by historical and famous figures ranging from Nancy Reagan to Napoleon to the late Gloria Vanderbilt. shannongrovepress.com



JOINT ADVENTURE PHOTOS: COURTESY MITCHELL GOLD + BOB WILLIAMS. A COLORFUL LIFE PHOTOS: COURTESY OF THE GRAND HOTEL.