

TAUNTON'S

# Fine Woodworking



12 hand tools everyone needs,

## Arts & Crafts coffee table

Build in the  
right order

Game plans for  
4 types of furniture

The first and last  
lathe you'll need

Design tips  
for drawer pulls

18th-century  
corner chair



Dec. 2010 No. 215

U.S. \$7.99/Canada \$8.99



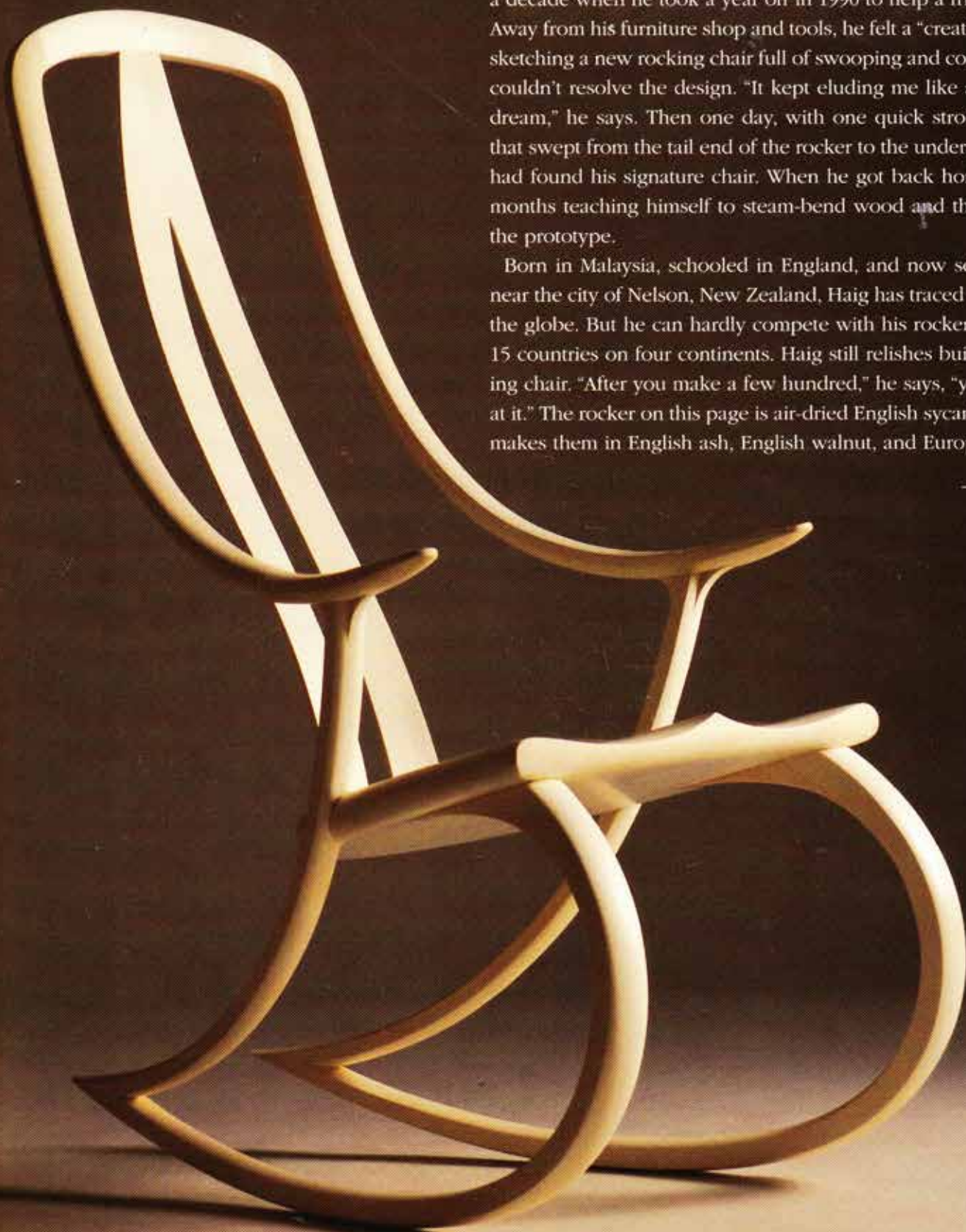
www.finewoodworking.com

# Dream Rocker

David Haig had been restoring antiques and making furniture for about a decade when he took a year off in 1990 to help a friend build a house. Away from his furniture shop and tools, he felt a "creative itch" and began sketching a new rocking chair full of swooping and coiling curves. But he couldn't resolve the design. "It kept eluding me like a half-remembered dream," he says. Then one day, with one quick stroke, he drew a line that swept from the tail end of the rocker to the underside of the arm. He had found his signature chair. When he got back home, he spent three months teaching himself to steam-bend wood and then began building the prototype.

Born in Malaysia, schooled in England, and now settled beside a bay near the city of Nelson, New Zealand, Haig has traced quite a path across the globe. But he can hardly compete with his rockers: They've gone to 15 countries on four continents. Haig still relishes building the challenging chair. "After you make a few hundred," he says, "you get pretty good at it." The rocker on this page is air-dried English sycamore, but Haig also makes them in English ash, English walnut, and European beech.

—Jonathan Binzen



Photos: Daniel Allen

**How They Did It** Turn to p. 98 for details on how Haig shapes the parts of this chair and joins them together.

**Pro Portfolio** To see and hear more about Haig and his work, watch an audio slide show at [FineWoodworking.com/extras](http://FineWoodworking.com/extras).