READY TO INSPECT — STANDARD FIELD GUIDE

AWI architectural woodwork standards

Architectural Woodwork Institute

The AWI architectural woodwork standards set what a specified grade of casework and millwork actually means. They define which materials and cores are allowed, how joints are made, how tight the fit and scribe to the building have to be, and how the finish is expected to look and hold up. On a walk they are the difference between millwork that reads as built-in and millwork that reads as furniture pushed against a wall.

What it covers

- Grade selection and what each grade requires of the work
- Materials, cores, veneers and edge treatments
- Joinery, assembly and concealed fastening methods
- Fit, scribe and reveal to adjacent construction
- Anchorage to walls and floors, and finish quality

What a field inspection looks at

- Scribes to walls and floors photographed tight, with any gap shown against the reveal the grade allows rather than caulked over first.
- Anchorage documented into blocking or structure, photographed before the fillers and end panels close the cabinet body.
- Face and reveal alignment across a run of cabinets shown in one frame, where a drifting margin gives itself away.
- Finish photographed under grazing light for sags, holidays and sheen mismatch on site, not just as it looked in the shop.
- Grade-driven details such as door style, drawer construction and hardware confirmed against what was specified, not what showed up.

Adoption varies by jurisdiction. Confirm the edition your authority having jurisdiction enforces before you run a walk against it.