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# Millwork company speeds production to furnish the interiors of the Bay Area's tech offices

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CEO of Mission Bell, Glenn Ripley



By [Nathan Falstreu](#) - Contributor, San Francisco Business Times  
Aug 9, 2018, 3:42pm

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Even cabinet makers have felt the impact of Silicon Valley’s infamous work-around-the-clock style.

For nearly 60 years, Mission Bell has provided custom architectural millwork for clients in an array of industries. The company’s tech clients are working in “on-demand cultures” and are now requiring faster turnarounds for Mission Bell as a result, said CEO [Glenn Ripley](#).

“Projects that 10 years ago would have taken four to six months to complete are now being requested in two,” Ripley explained.

As many of Silicon Valley’s most visible technology companies strive to create welcoming interior spaces for its employees and visitors, Morgan Hill-based Mission Bell works with architects and construction firms using materials sourced from around the globe make that happen.

While shorter turnaround times are challenging, Mission Bell has answered the bell and been able to streamline its operation, and now has faster product delivery and shortened construction timelines.

“We live in a society that moves very quickly and we’ve grown to expect that; it’s a reality of our culture and our work and we accept that as well,” said Ripley.

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## Mission Bell

**HQ:** Morgan Hill

**What it does:** Builds custom cabinetry, paneling and other interior features

**Founder:** [Leonard Scianna](#)

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**2018 projected revenue:** \$80 million

**Growth:** 40 percent over last three years

**Founded:** 1959

**Employees:** 300

**Clients:** LinkedIn, [Google](#), Facebook, Apple, [Netflix](#), Kaiser Permanente and Stanford University

**Web site:** [missionbell.com](#)

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Mission Bell – which specializes in custom cabinetry, paneling and furniture for commercial spaces with materials such as reclaimed wood, plastic laminate, glass and metal – has increased productivity by working in three shifts with some components of the manufacturing process operating around the clock. The company has invested nearly \$1 million in a new automated spray line and a built-in oven to cure the finish on recently fabricated materials cuts that part of the process in half. It was installed in January, Ripley said.

“Much of the mill working industry has lagged behind other manufacturing industries because they’re typically smaller shops or don’t have the capital or expertise to really embrace modern manufacturing technologies,” he said. “But, there are a lot of manufacturing aspects that are applicable for millwork such as robotic technology. We are in a good position to implement some of those elements.”

The company’s clients include companies like [LinkedIn](#), Google, Facebook, Apple, Netflix, Kaiser Permanente and Stanford University, among others.

“We do their lobbies, break rooms and spaces throughout their buildings,” said Ripley. “That’s our specialty – very visible custom millwork for high-tech clients throughout the Bay Area.”

“As a commercial general contractor working for high-end clients, [we’re] always focused on creating project teams with subcontractors that are experts in their field, [and] we also want companies that work in a collaborative manner ... [which] understand schedule and cost constraints,” said Tom Williamson, senior manager of special projects at [Hathaway Dinwiddie Construction Co.](#) “Mission Bell gets high marks in all of those categories.”

Mission Bell was founded as a family business in 1959 by [Leonard Scianna](#), and since his passing, sons John and Gregg Scianna continue to help lead the company. The company has grown to 300 employees and in 2002 adopted an Employee Stock Ownership Plan that gives workers the ability to own part of the company.

The company is on track to hit \$80 million in revenue in 2018, and wants to double its production capacity in the next five years. Ripley estimates Mission Bell will reach \$150 million in revenue by 2023.

“We’re bullish on the company. We have a great position and have some strong initiatives,” he said.