



MEET THE DESIGNER

Gary Gibson *by Meghan Pero*

AN ARTIST, INTERIOR DESIGNER AND PRODUCT DESIGNER SOUNDS OFF ON WHAT INSPIRES HIM MOST



The Designer | Gary Gibson, principal of LA-based Gibson Studio (BELOW). **Striking Gold** | The dining room of a home Gibson designed in Greenwich (ABOVE CENTER). **Rolling Stone** | The living room of a home in Greenwich (ABOVE RIGHT). **Treading Lightly** | The living room of a home in Greenwich (ABOVE RIGHT). See Resources.

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Where do you go when you need inspiration? Oregon. My family has a farm there and I have a cabin and art studio on the property. So I go paint. I love the environment in small doses. **Of all your past projects, which has been your favorite to work on?** That is hard! So many are based on my clients and the relationships we've established. I think one would be our current project in Greenwich. We had the pleasure of working with Shope Reno Wharton. The fun I have during the process with the clients is the best. **Are there any new design trends that you're excited about?** I am not big on trends. I am much more about contemporary classicism—referencing the past but updating it with a variety of textures that enhance the architecture or essence of the vision we are trying to achieve. I do love that technology has made it so you can have all the bells and whistles without the presence of speakers, equipment, etc. **If you could choose three people, living or deceased, to spend a day with, who would you choose?** Michelangelo, Andy Warhol and Louis XV. **Is there a 'Gary Gibson' signature design element?** Tough one! I think it's that the client ends up with a home that is representative of them with the influence of Gibson—I guess you could say user friendly, not overly decorated. **If you were an ice cream flavor, which would you be and why?** Rocky Road—I love chocolate. And I love the different textures that it has, with the nuts and marshmallows; it's like artwork, rich with color and lots of textures. **Does your home feature much furniture from your own collection?** For the longest time, it did not! But recently I have put in several pieces, which include a Buick Sofa in amazing Larsen silk velvet. I am greatly inspired by the '30 and '40s, so the furniture and found objects all relate well. It's all about great patina. **What does every home need?** A new kitchen. My kitchen is on my to-do list for 2010. **What advice can you give to new designers?** Learn your craft and resources well—that should be the given. I also find that psychology goes a long way: knowing your client and listening to them. They may not know what they want, but listen and interpret for them. **Do you have any upcoming projects that you are excited about?** The unknown is probably the most exciting; you never know where your next job is going to come from. I think it is actually sometimes the relationship you establish with clients and people that makes the projects come to you.

INTERIORS PHOTOGRAPHS BY GARY GIBSON; HEADSHOT BY KATY PRITCHETT