



DAVID WILSON

A conversation with Gary Hutton

WRITTEN BY STACY WILLIAMS

IN 2006, San Francisco-based interior designer Gary Hutton celebrated the 25th anniversary of his business.

Hutton founded his firm in 1980 and introduced the Gary Hutton Furniture Collection four years later. With commercial and residential clients that encompass high rises and specialty stores, he regularly updates his furniture line with the simple, yet sculptural forms that are his hallmark.

This month, Hutton appears at the Seattle Design Center's Northwest Designers' Expo (Nordex) event, March 15, where he will present "25 to Life: A Conversation with Gary Hutton."

SH&L's Stacy Williams recently talked to Hutton about his philosophy on renovating or remodeling a home.

Q&A

Q: What is the easiest way to give a room a "facelift"?

A: It's the paint—there isn't anything else that can change a room more dramatically. We did a project for two clients who collect Oriental rugs, and I told them to stain all of the hardwood floors olive green because all of their rugs were red. Well, it worked! The rugs just pop right off the floor!

Q: What is a common mistake that people make when undertaking a remodel?

A: Rather than throw money at a project, I think the most important thing is to think

through what you want and what you need. Don't worry about what other people expect—an all-marble bathroom, or granite counter tops—a room should reflect your personality.

Q: What's one of the most important things to consider about the design of a bathroom?

A: The number-one thing our clients are asking for is better lighting. You shouldn't forget the function of a room when you have the chance to remodel, and especially in a master bath you want good lighting."

Q: Have you ever remodeled your own home?

A: Yes—I have always lived in spaces with very neutral palettes, but in my newest apartment I painted the walls lime green and bright yellow. It's been really fun!

Q: Where do you find design inspiration?

A: Everywhere. I love hot-rod shows—I've used automotive paint on furniture before, and right now we're designing a chair that is based on a chopper [motorcycle]. Find inspiration wherever you can.

Q: What makes a house a home?

A: It speaks to you—it is you. When you are there, you feel that your home genuinely reflects your personality. ■

THE 34TH ANNUAL NORDEX EVENT, March 14 & 15, focuses on sustainable design and features two days of seminars and demonstrations. SH&L editor Giselle Smith moderates a panel discussion, March 15, with past Design Achievement Award honorees. Details: (800) 497-7997 or seattledesigncenter.com.



For an interview with another Nordex keynote speaker, environmental-design expert Penny Bonda, visit seattlehomesmag.com.

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