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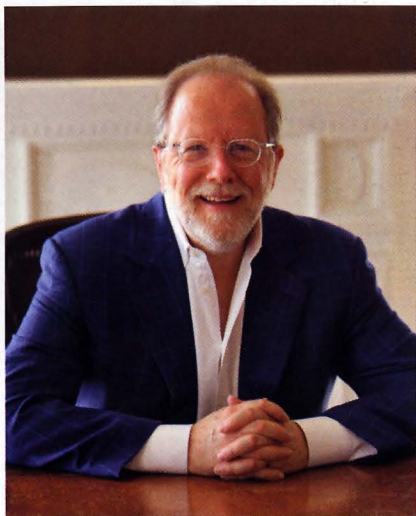
THE WORLD'S 20 GREATEST DESIGNERS OF ALL TIME PLUS: THE NEW AD 100



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Ken Tate

I always consider the setting,” says architect Ken Tate, “whether it is a hilltop in the horse country or a suburban neighborhood. The house must be in perfect harmony with its surroundings.” Tate, who received his degree from Auburn University in Alabama, is associated with the New Classicist movement, but he experimented with a variety of styles before founding his own firm in 1984. “Since I am a pluralist, I am inspired by very diverse subject matter,” he says. The Pantheon, the Guggenheim and New Orleans’s French Quarter are among the places that stimulate his creativity. Tate enjoys incorporating unexpected elements into his designs, such as a “French dovecote or a classical barn, which the clients might not have thought of.” Many of his best ideas, he says, are born organically. “Solutions based in intuition can be far better and more innately pleasing than those arrived at through intellectual grappling.”

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Roger Thomas

Roger Thomas has spent his 30-year career as the creative mind behind Wynn Design and Development in Las Vegas, designing lavish resort properties, among them the Bellagio, Encore and the Wynn Las Vegas. “My design approach starts with a long history of successes, which we analyze, and failures, which we never repeat,” he says. For each project, he draws inspiration from the likes of Andrea Palladio, Robert Adam and Jean-Michel Frank. Designing large, well-known resorts has given him perspective. “My vision for a project is now better informed,” he says, “and I am therefore more confident in its correctness. I have learned that it is my job to help those who work for me, not the other way around.” He’s committed to using recycled materials in his projects, along with sustainable manufacturing techniques, and has several eponymous collections, including furniture, mirrors, lighting and carpets.

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Suzanne Tucker

Traveling is my constant inspiration,” says designer Suzanne Tucker. “No matter where I go, I am always photographing details, patterns, colors, architecture, shapes and shadows.” Tucker, who worked closely with legendary California designer Michael Taylor before his death, established her firm in 1986. She shares Taylor’s attention to scale and proportion, and although she has worked internationally, the majority of her commissions are in California. Her interiors, she says, have a European sensibility with a “West Coast scale.” Before she begins a design, she likes to get to know her clients—“how they live, their lifestyle, their children and pets”—then she considers “the bones” of the residence. In 2010 she’ll introduce a line of fabrics featuring more than 40 designs in everything from silks to cottons and linens. A line of dinnerware is also in the works, a venture she calls “an entirely new medium for me.”

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