

“Designing a home is like reading a novel—  
you never fully understand the  
characters until the very last page.”

## DAVID JOHN DICK

> *DISC Interiors*

Although David John Dick claims the architecture and contemporary Art and Craft movements of California as strong influences, he is also drawn to the richness of Southern interiors and their sense of comfort and tradition. Born in Ohio, Dick grew up in Memphis, Tennessee, and after attending university in Chicago and a stint in Scotland, he settled in California. Having lived in different parts of the United States and overseas has given him perspective on how location influences interiors. Dick explains, “My work is an attempt to make sense of the places where I have lived and traveled, a quest to blend my history and present.”

Dick’s personal aesthetic is based in craft, woodworking, and other works made by hand. He has a deep appreciation for Japanese and Shaker design and seeks to create spaces with elegance, restraint, and simplicity. Dick cofounded his firm, DISC Interiors, with his partner, Krista Schrock, in 2012. Dick appreciates minimalism in design and strong artistic statements, but also secretly loves the warmth and familiarity that comfortable and cozy rooms can bring.

**FROM:** Dayton, Ohio

**LOCATED IN:** Los Angeles, California

**INFLUENCES:** Charles Rennie Mackintosh, the Scottish architect, for his ability to mix modernism with the highly decorative, creating completely personal and imaginative spaces. Also, the Greene and Greene architectural firm. Like Mackintosh, Greene and Greene merged traditional Japanese woodworking with Arts and Crafts architecture in a very California way.

This Italian chandelier, designed by Giopato & Coombes, is reminiscent of bubbles drifting in space and served to bring a sense of wonder to this dining room in Pasadena, California. The leather-trimmed chairs stand in artful juxtaposition to an oak-and-blackened steel dining table.

**THE LOOK:** Calm, layered, and comfortable.

**COLOR:** As a whole, I’m drawn toward colors or tones that are faded and more neutral. In Los Angeles, the sunlight is so strong that neutral colors for interiors have a grounding balance with our natural terrain. I favor calm spaces and colors that soothe. I want my interior spaces to comfort, balance, and nourish.

**KEY ELEMENT:** Accessories bring final balance and movement to a room. Large pieces of stone or wood ground a space; bowls and vessels made of metal, ceramic, or stone add openness and light and are perfect for flowers or branches; and linen throws and candles are great for cold evenings.

**ALWAYS HAVE:** Every room must have function and purpose. There is a delight in designing rooms that are to be inhabited, not merely admired.

**INSPIRATION:** I’m inspired by ancient civilizations and how people lived in the past. I’ve been lucky enough to travel to China, Japan, Morocco, Russia, Europe, and ruins throughout Mexico. The ancient gardens, water towns, and ink paintings of China; the architecture and tilework of Fez, Morocco;



the stone carvings and scale of the Mexican ruins; and woodworking in Japanese architecture in Kyoto continue to inspire me.

**NEVER FORGET:** Scale is of the utmost importance. The proper scale and placement of furniture, rugs, lighting, and drapery are crucial to the impact of a room.

The materials for the fireplace wall in this informal living room are balanced but asymmetrical, combining a mix of concrete, blackened steel, and oak beams. The blackened-oak circular coffee tables, leather recliner, and custom sofa by DISC Interiors are arranged casually to break up the space.



*“The key to a successful room  
is a sense of calm.”*

## KRISTA SCHROCK

### > DISC Interiors

Looking back, Krista Schrock can see how growing up in rural western Pennsylvania influenced her design aesthetic. “My mom, grandmother, and aunts were makers: crafting, sewing, gardening, cooking, arranging flowers, and decorating,” she says. “A general sense of aesthetics was strong in my household.”

Schrock moved west to Los Angeles, where she pursued a degree, and subsequently a career, in graphic design. These years taught her about color, texture, scale, and spatial layout, but she began to crave something more tactile. The transition to interior design was a natural one. Schrock worked for notable design firms in Los Angeles, honing her love for textiles and vintage furniture design. She opened DISC Interiors with her partner, David John Dick, in 2012.

Schrock says their firm’s aesthetic is always evolving, but it is focused on using natural materials such as wood, leather, and linen paired with iron or brass detailing. The result: quintessentially modern yet classic California-influenced rooms.

**FROM:** Somerset, Pennsylvania

**LOCATED IN:** Los Angeles, California

**INFLUENCES:** I grew up in a small, rural town with a big Amish presence. I was strongly influenced by the simplicity of form of the Shaker and Amish styles, as well as their color palettes of creams and blacks. I also loved that each household item had a specific purpose; there was little ornamentation, just clean lines and natural materials.

**THE LOOK:** Warm minimalism.

Vintage Italian chairs surround a round travertine table with a brass top, lending a sense of history to this contemporary home office. The textured black grass-cloth wallpaper combines with the custom bleached-jute rug to bring in texture and warmth.

**COLOR:** Color is secondary to texture for me. I love mixing velvet, linen, and leather. I gravitate mostly toward neutrals, warm earth tones, and a generous amount of black as an accent.

**KEY ELEMENT:** I am an avid lover of vintage textiles, and I am always seeking out new textile ideas to inform a color palette.

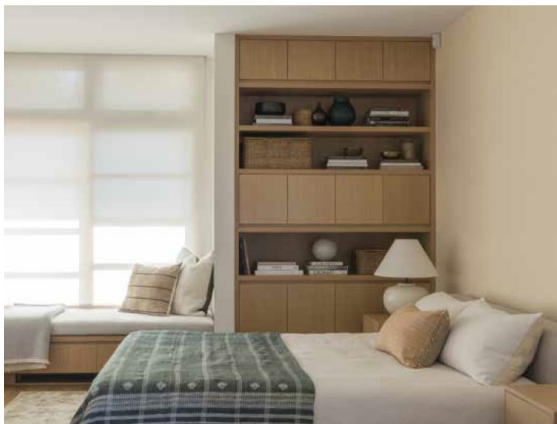
**ALWAYS HAVE:** I prefer a less-is-more approach to accessories. The few essentials, to me, are great art books, collectibles from traveling, antique textile pillows, and a good ceramic or brass bowl. Less is definitely more.

**INSPIRATION:** Lately, I have been spending a lot of time looking at vintage furniture in old auction catalogs, which inspires many details in our own furniture line. My color palette is inspired by nature: fox fur, Icelandic horse manes, and bird feathers, to name a few.

**NEVER FORGET:** I think the mistake people make is with scale. Most people tend to scale down, and that is always a mistake. I say, go bigger! A bigger rug, a bigger chair—just go bigger!







**top:** Twelve-foot-high ceilings and a massive sliding window highlight a mature and thriving tree just outside this airy kitchen. Caesarstone counters are worry-free for a family who loves to cook, while a pair of classic Danish pendants are suspended over the island.

**bottom:** A composition of vertical and horizontal lines on the bookcase and window add interest in an otherwise serene bedroom. The built-in window seat provides the perfect perch for reading a book or a brief respite in the filtered sunlight.

**opposite:** In this dining room, an antique brass lantern with milk glass from Spain offers mood lighting in the evening that can be seen from the pool. The vintage Danish chairs were re-covered in a sage leather to blend into the lush scenery outside.

