



## MARK SIKES INTERVIEWS MARKHAM ROBERTS FOR HIS BLOG IN 2014 – PART II OF II

MARK SIKES-

“I ALWAYS LOVE THE SECOND DAY OF MY MDS INTERVIEWS BECAUSE I GET TO FIND OUT ALL OF THE FAVORITE THINGS OF THE PEOPLE I ADMIRE... I LOVE GETTING TO KNOW ABOUT WHAT INSPIRES THEM...

MARKHAM ROBERTS HAS BEEN A GREAT SOURCE OF INSPIRATION TO ME OVER THE YEARS; HE IS TRULY ONE OF MY FAVORITE DESIGNERS. I ALWAYS LOVE HIS ROOMS- THE WAY HE USES COLOR AND PATTERN, HOW HE INFUSES OLD WITH NEW, THERE’S ALWAYS THE PERFECT MIX OF TRADITIONAL ELEMENTS WITH MODERN ONES, AND HE ALWAYS DOES SOMETHING A LITTLE UNEXPECTED - BUT IT WORKS AND SOMEHOW FEELS TIMELESS AND EFFORTLESS.

I LOVE BOOKS, ESPECIALLY DESIGN BOOKS, SO IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT I’M BEYOND EXCITED ABOUT MARKHAM’S NEW BOOK, [MARKHAM ROBERTS: DECORATING THE WAY I SEE IT](#). I’VE ALREADY PRE-ORDERED MORE THAN A FEW – ONE FOR MY FAMILY ROOM COFFEE TABLE, ONE FOR MY OFFICE, ONE TO BE STACKED ON MY BEDSIDE TABLE FOR QUICK REFERENCE, AND I’M SURE I’LL FIND THE NEED FOR A FEW MORE.

THERE ARE A LOT OF AMAZING DESIGNERS OUT THERE, BUT MARKHAM HAS SOMETHING VERY SPECIAL, VERY UNIQUE, VERY REFRESHING... EVERYTHING HE DOES IS WONDERFUL AND SO INSPIRING! LIKE I SAID, I GET TO KNOW A LOT ABOUT THE PEOPLE I INTERVIEW, AND WHAT I’VE DISCOVERED IS THAT MARKHAM IS ALSO A GENTLEMAN. HE’S A CLASS ACT- JUST ANOTHER REASON WHY HE’S TRULY ONE OF MY FAVORITE DESIGNERS- AND I KNOW HE’S ONE OF YOUR FAVORITES TOO! ENJOY!



New York Dining Room with chocolate brown lacquered walls





Markham's living room with chocolate brown sofa





## MARK SIKES – WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FLOWER?

MARKHAM ROBERTS – Sorry I know the question isn't what are your top three flowers, but anemones in the winter and dahlias and cosmos in the summer.



Anemones in a NYC Hall



Dahlias in Markham's Clinton Corners garden



Dahlias

## MARK SIKES – WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE BOOK?

MARKHAM ROBERTS – Of the classics, “Great Expectations” and “The Sound and the Fury.” From our times, “The Stranger’s Child” by Alan Hollinghurst, and I just finished “& Sons” by David Gilbert, which I loved.



Mark Sike’s new favorite book – [Markham Roberts: Decorating the Way I See It](#)

## MARK SIKES – WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE RESTAURANT?

MARKHAM ROBERTS – Indochine in NY, though Benihana or any Japanese steak house comes in a close second (despite the fact that it takes the Silkwood shower to get the smell out of your clothes).



Indochine



## MARK SIKES – WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ACCESSORY?

MARKHAM ROBERTS – My dog Harriet. I don't really think of her as an accessory, but I have to tote her around a lot, and I don't care much about watches or cuff links.



Harriet aka Harrie

## MARK SIKES - GIFT TO GIVE OR RECEIVE?

MARKHAM ROBERTS – I think flowers, food or wine all make nice, useful gifts. As far as getting a gift is concerned, my partner James gives the best gifts- both thoughtful and generous. He usually gives me a beautiful old drawing, but one birthday when I had been working extremely hard, he gave me a perfect little netsuke figure of a sloth and a cluster of snails with a note asking how he could help me slow down.



Netsuke

## MARK SIKES – WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE ARTIST?

MARKHAM ROBERTS – That question is impossible to answer, so I'll pick one contemporary artist whose work I love. Julia Condon is a fascinating woman who paints intricately beautiful mandalas depicting different manifestations of energy and light that invite the viewer to open to different states of consciousness and realities.



She is also a great portrait artist. Sitting for her was one of the more interesting and fun experiences I can think of.



Portrait of Markham by Julia Condon



Markham's Apartment

## MARK SIKES – WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE INDULGENCE?

MARKHAM ROBERTS –Massages.



One of my favorite Markham Roberts projects







## MARK SIKES – WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE STORE?

MARKHAM ROBERTS –James Sansum Fine and Decorative Art and Cove Landing. Both James and Angus Wilkie of Cove Landing are great dealers of art, furniture, and decorative accessories. They each have a distinctly chic and learned eye and have helped me build my collection of drawings, Indian miniatures, specimens, and beautiful objects over the years.



Sansum Gallery



Cove Landing

## MARK SIKES – WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE VACATION SPOT?

MARKHAM ROBERTS –Boca Grande, Florida. We left Naples for Boca Grande when I was 12, and Gasparilla Island was still a sleepy, old-time Floridian refuge from the cold, Northern winters. The island, though more developed today, still maintains it's original character. Places like the fantastic Gasparilla Inn, and the old Library give this beautiful island with its unparalleled beaches the feel of a forgotten time when things didn't move so fast.

My ideal, relaxing day is to wake up and either play golf with my father or walk the beach the length of the island with James. Have a late lunch at the club with my mother and play tennis in the afternoon. Meet for a drink at the old bar of the Inn, before dinner at The Temptation, and then stop by The Pink Elephant after dinner for one of their famous hummers (ice cream drink), which puts me out like a light!



Boca Grande





Gasparilla Inn



Hudson's Boca Grande





The Pink Elephant