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Quiet Force

## Scott Carpenter talks

interiors, yachts, commercial design, and how he found his unique niche in the design industry.
words SUNNY HUBLER
portraits JAME Y PRICE


"In my designs, I aim for the surroundings to always provide warmth."

Scott Carpenter is a bit elusive. Google his name and you won't find a million hits. Search him through social media, and you aren't about to be bombarded with dozens of images of his designs. But say his name in the right crowds, and you'll see clearly that his reputation precedes him.

Before Scott Carpenter became a force at the forefront of Charlotte's interior design industry, he was a young person growing up in southern West Virginia with a love of interiors. He attended school for Commercial Art and Design before completing an internship with a design studio in South Carolina. He found himself doing interiors that ranged from commercial and residential to custom-built yachts in New Orleans. Before long, he relocated to Charlotte and started Scott Carpenter Interiors.

Here in Charlotte, Carpenter has been at the cutting edge of design for high-end homes, like that of NASCAR driver Denny Hamlin, and he's worked on well-known Charlotte businesses like Ink \& Ivy, Whiskey Warehouse, Baku, and Brazwells. He has also lead the completion of yachts for Janie, Wheels, and Lohengrin.



How did you first know you wanted to get into design? I always knew I wanted to do design work... I can remember when I was in high school. I would move the furniture in my parents living room after I finished with football practice (laughter). I truly am very blessed to be able to make a career out of something I enjoy so much.

What's A DAY IN THE LIFE LOOK LIKE FOR YOU?
For me, all days are different. I travel often for projects, so that makes them all the more exciting. Residential is different from commercial work, and then when I'm doing yachts, I have to be extra aware of space. You never know what each day has in store for you.

IS MOST OF Your work centered in Charlotte?
Charlotte is my home, so yes, a little over 50 percent of my work is in the Carolinas. The other 50 percent has been all over the United States: Southern California, the Midwest, New York, Washington DC, Virginia, South Florida, Louisiana, Hawaii, and Charleston to name just a few.



WHAT INSPIRES YOU?
Traveling. I have been able to go around the world with projects from India to South America, China, Europe, and, of course, our great US-of-A.

How would you describe your personal design aesthetic?
In my designs, I aim for the surroundings to always provide warmth for me and my clients.

DO YOU OFTEN WORK WITH BUILDERS AND ARCHITECTS?
Yes, I work closely with both builders and architects. I feel the client gets a better outcome when you are part of the project from the ground up.

What are the rewards and challenges of your work?
The most rewarding part is when I finish a project and my friends and clients love what we have done. It always makes me so happy to see it come to life after all the time and energy we put into it. As for challenges... I think that all projects are challenging. It makes you a better designer and lets you think outside the box.

Tell us about some of your recent projects.
I truly have many that come to mind, and I am so thankful for being able to do to them all. Rick Hendrick's personal car museum in Concord, Channing Tatum's restaurant (Saints and Sinners) in New Orleans, one of the top ten yachts built for Trinity Yachts and published in the Robb Report, and the Sonic Automotive offices here in the Cotswold area. I have been able to do several fun NBA, NFL, and NASCAR homes over the years that I've loved, too.

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