

## News: People

### BEHIND THE BRAND



ROCKY MOUNTAIN  
HARDWARE



ARTISTIC TILE



DAVID TRUBRIDGE  
LIGHTING

## Behind the Brand: Product Designers Talk With KBB

December 25, 2023

Welcome to the December edition of **Behind the Brand**, where KBB seeks to illuminate – somewhat! – the creative process from the perspective of top product designers in the kitchen and bath fields. Being able to look at everyday objects in a radically different way is the [un]common denominator of these talented individuals.

This month, we hear from:

- Jill Cohen, vice president of design, **Artistic Tile**
- David Trubridge, founder of **David Trubridge Lighting**
- Christian Nickum, owner/president, **Rocky Mountain Hardware**

## **As a product designer, my greatest responsibility is...**

*Nickum:* To continue to allow our company to bring new and thoughtfully designed architectural products to market using old world casting techniques that appeal to the architectural styles of today's demanding and sophisticated clientele.

## **One of my creative touchstones is...**

*Nickum:* The ability to utilize our production strengths to appeal to our clientele by being able to bring the client's dream quickly and effectively to life. We have grown our company based on a "never say no" attitude which has given us many challenging opportunities that we continue to learn and grow from. Our artisans use a variety of methods from hand carving, using found articles like real rope, to create the most realistic patterns possible.

## **An industry trend that I'm watching is...**

*Nickum:* The ever-changing design trends, we look to create new products that suite the styles of today in the beautiful medium of bronze. Our new collaboration with Jennifer Hoey, principal interior designer of Suede Studio, was designed to have a broad appeal. The Phases Collection bridges the gap between Rocky Mountain Hardware's more traditional designs to the sleeker pieces that are often desired in many of today's projects. The collection represents the phases of life and how it is always changing and how we adapt. Hoey said, "There are elements of design that can last longer than others, but the reality is that we are all inspired by the phases of life that we are in now."

## The best part of my job is...

*Nickum:* To see a person's dream come to life that my team and I have created, whether it be a complete custom item created from scratch or another piece from our standard line. We strive to make the best hardware in the world, and we want to ensure every customer enjoys their experience with us and our products. Our hardware enhances every room and seeing our customers happy is what keeps us going.



*Rocky Mountain Hardware*

## If I had a week off from the studio, I would...

*Nickum:* Get out and enjoy the fresh air and experience a new adventure!! Like most people in many parts of the Pacific Northwest, I enjoy getting outside and looking for the next adventure.

—By Leslie Clagett, KBB managing editor



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF **NKBA** | **KBIS**