

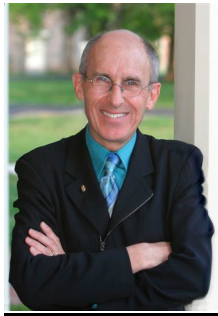
Shady Lady®

L I G H T I N G

For Further Information contact:
Megan Gardner/Shady Lady
P: 1.800.343.1954 ext. 102
F: 262.377.7190
mgardner@shadyladylighting.com

For Immediate Release
October 2009

Interview with Michael Payne



Shady Lady: What was the most outrageous design request you got from someone you were working with while hosting Designing for the Sexes?

Michael: The most outrageous design request I ever had was when I was working with a couple that lived in a beautiful house in Calabasas, CA. The entire house was decorated in a clean Asian aesthetic, except for their very large cube-like living room, which was the room I was to work with them on. I first asked the husband what he would like to do with the room and he looked at me with a straight face and said, "I would like this surface," pointing to a big 20'x 20' wall, "to look like the face of Half Dome in Yosemite National Park." I looked at him in disbelief and asked, "Why Half Dome?" and he replied, "I want it to look like that amazing rock face." I didn't quite know what to say, so I turned to his wife and asked her, what would you like to do with this space? She replied with a more conventional idea of a Zen-like atmosphere with simple design. The compromise was a living room with Asian minimalistic style, incorporating a fireplace wall resembling Half Dome, complete with water feature and plantings.

Shady Lady: What was the hardest obstacle to overcome when working with couples on your show?

Michael: By far the most difficult obstacle was also the one that was most commonplace. In nearly every project I worked on I had to deal with the issue of color, particularly wall color. Men typically wanted to stay with their white or beige walls, while women leaned towards branching out to try something different. They wanted to bring life and color into the room while the men were perfectly fine leaving the walls as is. I always told them, "it's only paint and you can paint over it if you don't like it".

Shady Lady®

L I G H T I N G

Shady Lady: What was harder for you, writing a book or running a marathon?

Michael: I have run six marathons and have a seventh one coming up next year. The thing about running a marathon is that you are only running against yourself, but writing a book has numerous obstacles along the way. It's not just a matter of writing words, it's also doing the research, organizing images and graphics, trying to put it all together to form one consistent end product and finding a publisher. At the finish line though, the beauty of completing the book is more personally satisfying than the marathons because it means something to not only me, but to everyone who reads it. I can share my thoughts, ideas and stories with someone through my book and they can understand and feel it, but telling them I finished a marathon in 3 hours and 21 minutes is really only significant to me.

Shady Lady: Of all the places you've traveled, where would you like to visit again the most?

Michael: I think of all the places I have been on personal non-work related journeys, the one I would like to go back to most is the Swiss Alps. I have been there a couple times and am always struck by the beauty and grandeur of the snow covered mountain caps, deep green valleys and charming villages.

Shady Lady: What is your favorite feature of your house?

Michael: When we remodeled our house a few years back, my wife and I created two spaces that each of us always wanted in our home. For my wife it was a room where she could have everything organized and in its proper place, from holiday decorations to my press kits, as well as have a large surface for wrapping gifts and working on family photo albums. My ideal space, however, was a luxurious bathroom; someplace I could go to relax, immerse myself in a hot tub with a glass of wine and listen to the music of my choosing while simultaneously enjoying a crackling fireplace and the beautiful view of Los Angeles. There's nothing like being able to reach complete satisfaction in your own home.