

RE:D

A person wearing a red garment with a complex, ruffled texture is holding a wooden geometric structure. The structure is composed of several rectangular blocks arranged in a 3D grid-like pattern, resembling a small architectural model or a puzzle. The person's hands are visible, with the left hand supporting the base and the right hand adjusting the top. The background is a solid red color with a subtle, repeating pattern.

PARSONS

RE: DESIGN AND MEMORY
PREMIERE ISSUE

RE:SPOND

Sheila Bridges '93

ALUMNI Q & A

Our featured alumni this month, Sheila Bridges, was named America's best designer by CNN and TIME MAGAZINE, and is the author of the book, *FURNISHING FORWARD: A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR FURNISHING FOR A LIFETIME*. In it, Sheila shares both professional and personal anecdotes as well as lots of solid information to help home and apartment dwellers make the transition from Ikea to eclectic, from milk crates to furniture that will endure for years. *FURNISHING FORWARD* guides the reader through finding and implementing a personal style within a realistic budget with advice on where and how to shop for quality pieces, as well as working with design professionals to create the look you want. With its witty narrative tone and its design-by-personality-type approach, no other decorating book is as useful for a younger audience while displaying a timeless style.

What was your first job after college?

I entered the Fashion Buyer training program at Bloomingdale's.

What's the best (or your favorite) part of what you do?

The variety of what I get to do. I get to wear different hats every day, depending on what I'm working on.

What's the worst (or your least favorite) part of your work?

Managing the business side of my company.

If you hadn't become a designer, what else might you have become?

A veterinarian or marine biologist.

When you were growing up, what did your mother want you to be?

She wanted me to be happy, whatever I did professionally.

What's one piece of advice you wish you'd had then....

I wish someone had told me it never gets any easier.

Who or what serves as your inspiration right now?

Most of my inspiration comes from nature and the environment.

What do you think is the most exciting trend in your field today?

The "Home" movement is very exciting—nesting has become America's favorite activity. I love the fact that people are becoming so passionate about décor.

What's the last book you read?

Z.Z. Packer's *DRINKING COFFEE ELSEWHERE*.



What would be your dream vacation?

I would love to rent a villa somewhere and take an entire month off!

Cats or dogs?

I have one dog and one horse. I love cats but don't own any.

Coffee or tea?

Herbal tea.

What is the new black?

Chocolate brown.

If you could take any designer or artist in history out to dinner, who would it be and why?

Wassily Kandinsky, the father of modern art. His work has had a tremendous effect on me.

What are your favorite red things?

My lipstick, my quarter horse named Red, and my red convertible car.

PHOTO BY LUCA TROVATO