

# Designing a Legacy

Honoring the Longevity of Great Design



*Upper image: Mike Han mural in its original location in PTD's office. Lower image: Han's mural divided and reinstalled in PTD's office lounge*  
*Photography: (Upper image) [Alicia Gbur](#); (Lower Image) [John D'Angelo](#).*

## Our office is ever-evolving.

Through the constant tweaks and configurations, our beloved [Mike Han](#) mural has stood at the center of the office, literally and figuratively. That is until our most recent renovation. In order to expand, the Han wall had to come down but we were determined to salvage and give the mural a second life.

In 2015, Mike pulled an all-nighter working on the piece. We left work one evening with a blank wall and, like magic, came back the following morning to a freshly painted mural. Eight years later, the demolition crew had to carefully remove that same wall in sections to preserve the mural. With the expertise of [Bruce White Galleries](#), we further divided the mural, framing 15 individual pieces and hanging them in their original configuration on our new lounge wall.

The reenvisioned piece proudly stands as a reminder of PTD and Han's dedication to our respective crafts and continued commitment to preserving the things we hold dear while reimagining their potential.



*At right: The mural deconstructed*

---

## Checking In on a Classic

Doing Good Through Great Design



*Above: Patrick's hand painted deck for Ann Arbor Skatepark's Art Auction*

**Anyone familiar with PTD's work or my personal aesthetic may have noticed a recurring theme - a deep love of the simplistic boldness and stark clean lines of a classic check.**

The pop of [Alexander Girard's Checker](#) pattern on a pillow, a perfect install of [Interface](#) carpet tile in a checkerboard pattern, the effortless way a pair of crisp [checkerboard Vans](#) pair with literally anything.

The ubiquitous shoe of California's 70s skateboard culture was born of Paul Van Dorne's entrepreneurial acumen and insistence on selling high-quality low-cost shoes that were easily customizable (so customizable, in fact, that Vans initially sold single shoes to young skateboarders whose ollie foot would tear through one shoe more quickly than the other).

From niche skate shoe to pop culture icon seen everywhere from "Fast Times at Ridgemont High" to the concrete of the Hollywood Walk of Fame, there's an instant recognition and timelessness to the check that I tapped into for my contribution to the [Ann Arbor Skatepark's Art Auction](#). My first foray into sign painting, with guidance from the incomparable [Kelly Golden](#), gave me the opportunity to design and hand-paint a bespoke deck that featured the pattern that I have grown to love so much. The statement "It's Ok To Want More," is a reminder that everyone has to take that initial step (like learning to skateboard or starting PTD) and that from such humble origins spring great things.

---



# Cabin in the Woods

Finding Inspiration in the Simple Things



Above: The little red cabin in the woods  
Photography by [John D'Angelo](#).

**Sometimes a place we've never been evokes such strong feelings of nostalgia it's like we were meant to be there.**

I grew up in a little red house so there was an instant sense of belonging and familiarity with this unassuming little cabin in Michigan's Lower Peninsula. Tucked away on a quiet lake where the call of loons is often the only sound, the cabin is unassuming with an undeniably magical charm.

It's been a collaborative effort to preserve the bones of this old family hunting cabin while making it a space for friends, family and PTD's team to enjoy. We stripped the interior back to its original wood structure and added layers of character through found art, collected heirlooms, and vintage mid-century pieces I've owned for years.

The greatest thing about the cabin is that it feels lived-in and loved. I'm always asking visitors to the cabin or the designers at PTD for input which gives a truly collaborative and communal spirit to the space. It's not super refined or fancy, but it is a perfect place to create that feeling of home and belonging that no amount of money can buy.



Above: The interior celebrates the simple construction of the space and is layered with curated furniture and art pieces

## Thompson Industries

A Dispatch from the Desk of Patrick Thompson



Above: Thompson Industries merchandise  
Imagery: [Jamie Latendresse](#)

**People paying attention to PTD's social media may have noticed the name Thompson Industries pop up lately.**

Whether spotted on a sweatshirt or a new landing page teasing the launch of the brand it would be fair to ask what is it and what do they make. Well, we here at

Thompson Industries are wondering the same thing.

Since I was young I've been obsessed with creating. It didn't matter what it was, I just had a curiosity about objects. My obsession with bikes, skateboards, shoes, bags, hats, any thing really has never stopped and doesn't appear to be stopping anytime soon. At Patrick Thompson Design we get to create special spaces for special people and often many of the artifacts that make these places special are custom designed by us along with the talented craftspeople we are lucky to call partners. Thompson Industries may be a way for us to bring some of these objects, products and pieces into your homes or spaces.

I'll be honest, I've always wanted to have my own skateboard company and that's where the concept of Thompson Industries started but since working with creative firm, JLD, it's turning out to be more than that. We aren't sure what that more is yet, but we are certain that whatever we decide to make will be thoughtful heirloom pieces that will be cherished for generations.

---

Follow us!



---

ptd

*Copyright (C) 2023 Patrick Thompson Design. All rights reserved.*

Our mailing address is:

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)