

# Tropical Living™

BY TROPICAL HOMES

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A photograph of a modern tropical villa. The building features a large, thatched roof that extends over a swimming pool and a lounge area. The lounge area has several white lounge chairs and a sofa. The pool is surrounded by a stone deck. A small tree is visible on the right side of the image.

## Not bad for a white boy

The life and times of Carey Smoot

## Starz in their eyes

Behind the scenes fashion

## New kid on the block

History and glamour at the St. Regis

## Men in white coats

Pseudo science or psychic healing?

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SANUR, JIMBARAN AND THE BUKIT**



forever complimented her on her taste and started asking her to buy things that she herself had bought, the idea of 'going pro' started to develop.

Gill further developed her skills and knowledge whilst living in Japan, where she purchased some of her prime antiques that still adorn her home in Sanur, and later in Kuala Lumpur, that melting pot of a city which is a veritable treasure trove for those looking for art, antiques, fabrics and furnishings. To this day, Gill's favourite shop in all of Asia is Farah Khan's Asia Style, located in the Twin Towers. When David was offered the post of GM at the Ritz-Carlton Bali in 2002 and the family moved to Sanur, Gill decided to open up shop, and GW Interiors was born.

GW specializes in furnishing private villas, purchased by expats as holiday homes and rental properties. To date, she has done a multitude of villas in Temple Hill, Coconut Grove, the Akasha and Residence Seminyak, as well as several boutique hotels on and around Bali. 'I don't do furniture packs, she says, 'rather, we come up with total home solutions, completely tailor made, within an agreed budget.' 'I think it is very important to be able to furnish an entire home with good quality, beautifully designed furniture and furnishings, without breaking the bank and without going over the agreed budget.' This is something increasingly important to Gill's clients in these turbulent times. But Gill knows her trade, and she offers huge dining table made from re-claimed timber at under a thousand dollars, and an intricate, hand made headboard can cost as little as three to four hundred dollars.



When not working, Gill spends much of her time either horseback riding, or entertaining friends in her large Sanur home. She and David also enjoy sampling Bali's finer restaurants, and the Wilsons are regulars at places like Sip, Kafe Warisan, Sarong and La Sa. But, increasingly, as her business keeps growing with her reputation, Gill can be found in the back streets of Jogjakarta, hunting for antiques, or at a fabric merchant in Medan looking at patterned silk. This London girl will go to the four corners of the earth to find what she needs to create a beautiful home for her clients, and her many customers are all the happier for it.

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SHAMELESS ENDORSEMENT OF THE MONTH:

# GW Interiors

**If you've spent the last 20 years in Asia, living in Jakarta, Malaysia, Japan, Australia, India and, for the past six year, Bali, and you're mad about fabrics, patterns, antiques and décor, you're bound to become an interior designer sooner or later. QED: GW Interiors, owned and operated by the formidable Mrs W herself. Tropical Living enters a world of Ottomans, silk runners, antique side boards and Nepalese cushions.**

Gill Wilson is trying to give up smoking. This is no mean feat for someone who has lived a charmed and occasionally ultra-glamorous existence for decades. A world consisting of champagne flutes, fabulous parties and five star hotels; Mrs Wilson's husband, David, is a senior hotelier with the Ritz-Carlton Group. But sooner or later we all have to give up, and right now it's the turn of Mrs W. She may have given up the fags, but she certainly hasn't given up the pouffes, and here we are in her showroom, surrounded by half a dozen of them. And drapes, and curtains, and fabric samples and runners and dining tables and Ottomans and many, many carpets.

Gill is clearly someone who loves what she does and feels passionately about quality, design and what constitutes a home. 'No one has accused me yet of being a minimalist,' she says, laughing. Gill laughs a lot, and unlike so many self-important designers, she is incapable of taking herself too seriously. 'And, no, I don't think that it's possible to create a warm atmosphere in stark black and white, with little fabric and fewer

object d'arts. I love minimalist design for restaurants, shops, offices, sometimes even hotels, but not for a home. The Japanese may live in minimalist environments, and often have stunningly beautiful homes, but I don't think I'd be happy living like that. I need more warmth; colour, fabrics, softness, texture.'

As a child, Gill would constantly re-organize the living room furniture in her house, to the great irritation of her parents and siblings. 'They'd all come home from school and work, and the sofa would be where the television had been and the dining room table had changed places with the Ottomans. I probably drove them nuts,' she says. But her professional life started in India in 1993, when David was stationed at the Hyatt in Delhi. Gill was drawn into the bazaars, the hidden shops, the museums, the markets; the richness of the colours, the multitude of different fabrics and patterns and the myriad of ancient antiques that could be purchased for very little money. It all contributed to making her a collector, and when people

