

iShares ETFs let you pursue growth by tracking the market.

Get a new perspective on your portfolio.

iShares by BlackRock

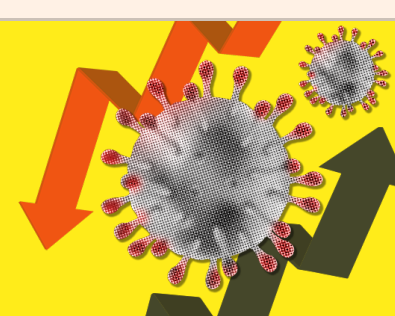
LEARN MORE

Notice



CORONAVIRUS BUSINESS UPDATE

Get 30 days' complimentary access to our Coronavirus Business Update newsletter



Get the newsletter now

Latest on George Clooney

- Brunei-owned hotels boycotted over law against gay sex
What Amal Clooney teaches us about public speaking
Netflix shares jump on Letterman talk-show debut date
The Hawn Foundation: golden touch

George Clooney + Add to myFT

Stripping down to a 20th-century shell

Mark Ellwood MAY 26 2006



There's more to Vegas than George Clooney-sponsored luxury condos and titillating neo-Burlesque bars. In fact, far from the strip, the once abandoned downtown district is in the midst of a revival...

Artist Tim Bavington, 39, lives in the centre of it all. "Vegas amazes me," he says. "It still keeps getting more exciting and there's always the feeling that it's a great place to be."

Bavington was born in the UK but escaped to America straight after his A-levels to study art in California. He ended up marooned in cartoons, spending a decade as one of the team producing Bart-emblazoned spin-off product for The Simpsons.

Through that degree, he rediscovered the conceptual, abstract style he'd road-tested at university 10 years earlier, looking to Ed Ruscha, John Baldessari and especially the stripey op-art work of Bridget Riley as influences.

Though his Pop Art-like paintings are acid bright, Bavington himself is a wry, modest man, who still retains a soft British accent even after two decades abroad.

Tim and his wife, Kim Crisostomo, also an artist, snapped up a low-slung ranch-style bungalow in downtown Vegas eight years ago. This was before retro-minded hipsters repopularised the washed-up glamour of the area...

"Downtown was the first swanky neighbourhood," he explains. "Jack Binion [scion of the casino pioneers] lived opposite us for a while and next door is a casino owner who's been there since the late 1950s."

The fundamentals unearthed were impressive: tongue-and-groove ceilings, typical mid-century stone fireplaces and brick walls - a major bonus since most contemporary tract homes have wooden frames.

"For us, the house is all about its raw materials: a flagstone entryway, wood ceilings, lots of masonry work," he says. "We discovered that all the cabinets were a beautiful old cherry mahogany so we restored them to their original, minimal look."

There's no question, however, that the house's best asset, for two artists at least, is the butterfly roof. "It's really, really unusual, even for that period. Normally, roofs are gabled upwards, but this dips down in the middle."

The house is indeed shot throughout with sunlight, thanks not only to the roof but also a central courtyard much like the ones in the homes architect Joseph Eichler built in southern California.

As for furniture, the couple have opted for era-appropriate reproduction and vintage classics by Eames, Knoll and others. But aside from some bright blue sofas and a swirly Paul Smith rug in the living room, the colours are mostly neutral.

Soon, Bavington hopes to transform his passion for interiors into a commercial concern. Having already produced a line of high-end notecards with New York's Industries Stationery, he's now working on wallpaper featuring his bright conceptual stripes.

www.timbavington.com

Get alerts on George Clooney when a new story is published

Get alerts

Copyright The Financial Times Limited 2020. All rights reserved.

Reuse this content

Latest on George Clooney

- US politics & policy: Netflix shares jump on Letterman talk-show debut date
The Art of Persuasion: What Amal Clooney teaches us about public speaking
Human rights: Brunei-owned hotels boycotted over law against gay sex

Comments have not been enabled for this article.

The Banker Database Request a demo

Follow the topics in this article

- House & Home + Add to myFT
University of Nevada + Add to myFT
George Clooney + Add to myFT
Americas + Add to myFT
Ed Ruscha + Add to myFT

Cookies on FT Sites

We use cookies for a number of reasons, such as keeping FT Sites reliable and secure, personalising content and ads, providing social media features and to analyse how our Sites are used.

Manage cookies

Accept & continue

Financial Times' are trademarks of The Financial Times Ltd. Editorial Code of Practice