



## Jim Thompson Fabrics

With a history that dates back to 1950 when the first shop was opened in Bangkok, Jim Thompson Fabrics has a rich heritage originating from an American architect's love of Thai silk. Working with local Thai weavers the company produced fabrics that were sort after by Hollywood filmmakers, Broadway musical productions and internationally renowned designers working with royal clientele.

In 2007 the company expanded to Europe opening a showroom in the up and coming art district of Munich. Jim Thompson America has over 20 showrooms across North America.

When the Paris showroom opened on October 3, 2013, the chic and fashionable neighborhood of St Germain de Pres came to a standstill.

Their intricate hand woven textiles have adorned the most opulent interiors of superyachts, private jets and some of the world's most exclusive luxury hotels, restaurants and private residences. Their traditional, luxurious fabrics have been adapted especially for outdoor furnishing, varying the age-old handwoven designs to increase strength and durability. Available in a wide selection of colour ways, the Jim Thompson outdoor range maintains that opulent furnishing fabrics should not be exclusively for inside the home.

[www.jimthompson.com](http://www.jimthompson.com)

## Designer in Profile...

**Steve Roberts**  
Managing Director,  
Turnstyle Designs Ltd



### Which sector do you specialise in?

Architectural Hardware. Doors and Cabinet hardware.

years of development but a very rewarding project in the end. The client, designer and shipyard were all very happy with the result.

### Is the Superyacht market an integral part of your business/ large percentage of your market?

Yes, the Superyacht market is a vital part of our overall business and worldwide represents well over 30% of turnover.

### Working within the Superyacht sector must be different than the domestic and commercial markets, have you found this to be the case?

Yes, the Superyacht sector sets the benchmark for quality of product and the level of service. It is a great industry to work in with friendly and professional clients. It is often very challenging to convert clients' designs into a viably reproducible product, however by being pushed to the limits in engineering and craftsmanship is how we are able to keep pushing the boundaries of what we do. For example, our hardware needs to look beautiful but it also has to function in ways that is not necessary on dry land, quiet, robust lockable cupboards for example, removable fiddle rails, certain fire rated doors many need levers in stainless steel but in the same design as the rest of the yacht. The supply chain is also more complicated, from specification by the designer to working with up to 6 different fit out companies for a large Superyacht, coordinating manufacturing can often be very challenging.

### How long have you worked in this sector?

We have been in business for 25 years and working with the Superyacht Industry for 20 years.

### Which other sectors do you work in?

High-end Residential, Hospitality, and the Furniture Industry.

### Can you please give details of recent interesting projects and your direct involvement/ participation in these projects?

We are not allowed to name specific projects, which is always a little frustrating although understanding. We delivered a very complex set of hardware at the end of last year for a USA builder, designed by an Italian designer who's client required every cupboard on board to be fully lockable (after a previous yacht had a very rough Atlantic crossing resulting in cupboards opening and contents flying all over the yacht). We had to work very small locks into about eight different types of push button handles, espagnolettes and T bars, making sure we did not compromise the aesthetics whilst ensuring the locks were reliable and robust. We also made co-ordinating door levers, fiddle rails and grab rails to match, incorporating leather, wood and shell inlay into the brass work. Two

### And trends/design directions moving forward...

Product wise, we are seeing more and more demand for sliding and pocket doors, both on Yachts and on residential homes, we are launching a number of new designs at this year's Monaco and Mets shows. Grey is also growing in popularity as a colour, we now offer a Slate Grey leather and a Woven leather alternative. We have seen a huge rise in demand for vintage metal finishes however this has yet to come through in Yacht design, Polished Brass is making a comeback as well.

