



» NICK DRYDEN «

ARCHITECT / SALVAGER

➤ A local architect's experience with rebuilding neighborhoods, salvaged materials, and Billy Reid.

I'M THIRD-GENERATION Tennessee architect. My grandfather studied under Frank Lloyd Wright.

WHEN I WAS 11 years old, I collected scrap wood from job sites, chopped it up, and sold it as kindling. The company was called Nick's Sticks.

I AM A SALVAGER.

LAST WEEK, we bought a barn that somebody was selling on Craigslist, milled it down, and used it on Dan Auerbach's new bungalow.

THE GULCH is a low-lying area, near train tracks. Before the condos, the Gulch had become pretty derelict.

THE STATION INN was the last holdout.

IT'S THE OUTER-LYING stretches

that interest me. They're kind of a lost space, industrial brownfields. That is where nobody's looking.

I STRIVE FOR place-making. I don't know if it's a real word, but I say it a lot.

I'VE GOT THE GRAND POOBAH of salvage stories. We were working with Billy Reid on his New York store, and he needed front doors. I called my friend Garland in Alabama, and he tells me about these three-inch thick, hand-carved doors. Then Garland calls me back, freaking out. 'You're not going to believe this,' he says. 'About three years ago we salvaged a New York building, on Bond. Guttled the place and brought home these doors.' And then he says, 'You aren't going to believe me, but these doors came out of Billy's building, same screw holes.' I immediately called my dad.