

Dave Stolte

CREATIVE STRATEGIST | DESIGN DIRECTOR | HISTORICAL RESEARCHER

Riverside, California | dave@wexlerofcalifornia.com | wexlerofcalifornia.com | linkedin.com/in/davestolte

PROFILE

Creative strategist, designer, illustrator, author, and historical researcher with more than four decades of experience turning complex ideas into clear, memorable communications. Work spans heritage, hospitality, culture, publishing, civic projects, and special assignments requiring research, judgment, storytelling, creative direction, and cross-disciplinary collaboration.

CORE CAPABILITIES

Creative Strategy | Historical Research & Interpretation | Storytelling | Brand & Visual Systems | Writing | Illustration

EXPERIENCE

Design Director

I lead a boutique studio, primarily solo, serving heritage and hospitality clients through creative strategy, visual design, illustration, storytelling, publishing, and historical research. Clients have included Disney, the City of Riverside, Pernod Ricard, Campari America, Marnier Lapostolle, Rémy Cointreau, Brown-Forman, and Smuggler's Cove. *2010–present*

Senior Graphic Designer

 Snapware / World Kitchen

Solo in-house designer, performed senior art direction duties across packaging, sales materials, photography, brand standards, illustration, production, and creative workflows. *2009–2011*

Senior Art Director & Project Manager

 William Hezmalhalch Architects

Translated complex architectural and land planning concepts into clear visual communications; managed projects, vendors, and junior designers. Updated in-house illustration team to digital tools while retaining analog style. *2002–2005*

Earlier experience (1979–2001) available upon request.

CIVIC LEADERSHIP

President

 Old Riverside Foundation

I volunteer with a nonprofit dedicated to Riverside's historic built environment. *2019–now*

Advisor

 Ward One Advisory Cabinet

I serve on this body as an advisor, providing perspective on local issues to Councilmember Falcone. *2024–now*

Representative

 Cultural Directors Consortium

I represent ORF in the Riverside Cultural Directors Consortium, connecting preservation advocacy with the city's broader arts and cultural community. *2024–now*

RECOGNITION

Best New Cocktail Book Finalist Tales of the Cocktail
2011 and 2013: *Home Bar Basics (and Not-So-Basics)*.

Global Champion Cut&Paste Competition. *2011*

Society of Illustrators 51st Annual Exhibition

New York City. *2009*

Jesse H. Neal Business Journalism Award *2001*

AUTHORSHIP

Houstory series

Research and creation of custom histories for significant homes and properties, combining archival research, historical writing, photography and image sourcing, design, and book production. *2026–ongoing*

Some Architect: Peter J. Weber's Enduring Creativity

Conducted extensive original research for a biography of architect Peter J. Weber, including archival investigation, oral interviews, source verification, historical writing, image research, and photo archiving. Wrote, designed, and laid out the completed book, managing the project from research through publication. *2025*

Home Bar Basics (and Not-So-Basics)

Wrote, illustrated, designed, and self-published three editions of an award-nominated guide to home bartending. *2011, 2013, 2020*

EDUCATION

California State University, Long Beach

Studio Art Bachelor of Arts Program. *1987–1991*