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Star-Studded *Work*

Interior designer Jonathan Savage channels luminary
Albert Hadley in this modern interpretation.

BY **KAREN PARR-MOODY**. PHOTOS BY **HEATHER DURHAM**.



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Luxury bespoke wallpaper is making a comeback in both glamorous homes and five-star hotels. Such wallpaper has inspired a home redesign by Nashville interior designer Jonathan Savage.

Savage, of SAVAGE Interior Design, wrapped the client's dining room in “Bambois” wallcovering from the London firm Fromental, which describes it as “a modern and fresh chinoiserie based around a bamboo garden with winding climbers, peonies, birds, and butterflies.” This silvery wall covering sets the tone—the same luxuriousness distinguishes the rest of the rooms in the house.

With his impeccable taste and ability to strike a balance between spare and glamorous, Savage outshone the competition in this magazine's 2016 Home Awards for best design firm. Those traits also exemplify his mentorship with Albert Hadley, the Tennessee luminary whose projects included the Kennedy White House and whose clients included the top-drawer names Astor, Rockefeller, and Whitney.

Savage and Hadley's working relationship sprung from serendipity—a friend introduced them when Savage was “fresh out of design school.” Savage graduated from the O'More College of Design in Franklin, Tennessee, after studying interior design and architecture at American University in London.

“There was an understated elegance to everything he did,” Savage says. “There was no one better. He was the be-all and end-all, and I was so fortunate to call him a friend.”

Savage adheres to Hadley's adage “never less, never more,” discerning when a room's décor is enough—and when it isn't. He nods to modernity while also reaching into history's canon—as he did with this home—via Grecian urns, Greek keyhole trims, classical moldings, and recessed wall niches.

Naturally, Savage's work is also informed by many past design legends. He points to some rosette molding that he had Nashville's Vintage Millworks replicate from a motif often used by Billy Baldwin, the veritable designer of Hollywood Regency style.

Such luxurious touches punctuate every room—a sensuous, custom table made by artisan Keith Fritz, available through Paul+ at Atlanta Decorative Arts Center (ADAC), anchors the dining room. “When you buy a Keith Fritz table, that's it,” Savage says. “You've got the best. It's the Rolls-Royce of all tables.” Each chair circling the table features Holland & Sherry's lush wool tartan.

In the music room, the influence of Hollywood Regency reaches its zenith with silver leaf chairs (from R Hughes, also at ADAC) and antique chinoiserie wardrobes, along with a comfortably sleek sofa with Midcentury Modern lines upholstered in Holland & Sherry mohair and accessorized with striped bolster pillows out of Carleton V LTD's Debussy (available through Ainsworth-Noah). Draped over it is a cashmere throw from Savage's eponymous line sold online at Taigan.com. A massive modern painting by Nashville's Kayce Hughes is the focal point.

The living room redesign was daunting. “It was a big, voluminous space that needed to be softened,” Savage says. “It was really a challenge, but with some strategic planning and lots of Benjamin Moore paint it all came together.”

At the center of the room, a table with limestone top from Holly Hunt, sold at Jim Thompson, is flanked by triangular stools from Hable Construction for Hickory Chair. Savage added telephone tables, infusing the room with comfort and friendliness.

“That is good design,” Savage says. “If you have a place to put a drink every time you have a seat, that is a good thing.” (savageinteriordesign.com)







