



SAVAGE Interior Design

Text by Wanda Southerland
Photography by SAVAGE Interior Design

High-end interior design invites difference rather than the easily accepted industry standards. Knowledge and experience of this process is what sets designers apart whereby their work becomes recognizable at a glance.

Tennessee native Jonathan Savage of SAVAGE Interior Design is quickly changing from a designer to watch to one who has arrived as evidenced by his year-to-date exposure in Nashville, Atlanta, New Orleans, New York, Napa, Brooklyn and London.

Earlier this year, Jonathan was invited to design the two-story grand staircase and landing of a Park Avenue townhouse for the forty-fifth Kips Bay Decorator Show House, an event that raises funds for the Kips Bay Boys and Girls Club of New York.

"I've attended this show house many times and always dreamed of being a part of the actual design of one of the rooms," Jonathan shares. "It was really 'a pinch me moment' to be chosen among the other incredible designers."

Jonathan wanted to bring southern charm to New York, which he achieved by telling the story about its flora and fauna

that was incorporated into a dramatic custom-designed wall covering created in collaboration with Los Angeles-based MJ Atelier. Each motif — a white-tailed deer, a Tennessee mockingbird, a red fox, a raccoon and a magnolia blossom — is rendered in hand-applied plaster using white paint that added depth to its off-black background. Mirrored niche insets in a harlequin pattern gave dimension to the space. Ice crystal sconces, Lucite stair rods and a beautiful Patterson Flynn & Martin runner



Jonathan Savage

resulted in a show-stopping statement.

In November, Jonathan designed the beautifully appointed dining room at the 2017 O'More College of Design's Designer Show House that was inspired from the elegant Blue Room at the White House designed by the French Design firm Maison Jenson in 1962 when Jacqueline Kennedy was First Lady. The Savage Interior Design team used warm creams mixed with soft gold, muted blues and fine textures to create an intimate space with forever changing views through the paned French doors.

SAVAGE Interior Design has participated in four O'More Designer Show houses. Jonathan is a 2008 graduate of the college and in 2016 joined the school's board. As a way to support the next generation of young design students, he founded the Alumni Association. Last year he was named "Best Design Firm in Nashville" by the inaugural Nashville Lifestyles Home awards.

Upon his graduation from O'More College of Design, this aspiring designer set his sights on New York City, the epicenter of design and inspiration. "I knew that if I wanted a career in design, I would need to spend some time in New York," Jonathan says. "Working under one of the most talented designers of our time, David Kleinberg, was icing on the cake."

While designing a combination of modern and traditional spaces from the Hamptons to New York lofts, Jonathan refined his eye and discovered that his personal design was aesthetic, modern with a classic twist.

Confident with the knowledge he gained and hands-on experience, Jonathan returned home to Nashville and established his eponymous firm, SAVAGE Design.

Having Southern roots, one may ask if there is such a thing as Southern Style or Southern decorating. Jonathan says that style does exist and some clients want chintz and brown furniture.





However, most prefer “a cleaner and more serene version of that style.”

Trends come and go and styles repeat themselves. The clean style of today can be transitional or modern. “I’ve been using a lot of veiny marbles, cream walls, rouged oak, painted cabinetry, simple panel doors and lighter floors, such as French white oak,” he says.

Nashville is a vibrant city that is seeing tremendous development and building, especially in the downtown area where some of his clients prefer. In-town living offers convenience to restaurants, boutique shops, and concerts or enjoying the views from a rooftop bar.

One of this designer’s favorite projects is in one of these high-rise building. The before-and-after photos reveal the complete

transformation of the kitchen being opened to the dining and living space to showcase the astounding downtown views through the floor-to-ceiling windows. “It’s a bird’s eye view to the changing landscape of the city.”

The cabinets Jonathan chose are sleek and modern and complemented by the mitered marble countertops. He was excited to see the end result since this was the first time he used these particular cabinets, as pictured on page one.

Jonathan’s clients range in age from young professionals and up. “We don’t discuss age,” Jonathan wisely says, “We discuss style.”

Many of his clients have seen his work, either at a friend’s home, a show house, a magazine feature or a referral. “There’s no better compliment than a trusted referral. I was recently asked to design a dining room for a client. The finished product was exactly as planned. It was perfect!” Jonathan says. “A few months later this client called and asked me to finish her home. What an honor!”

SAVAGE Interior Design clients are part of the entire process — from the initial meeting to stocking the pantry. The process is also a two-way street that is born out of trust. “The best client trusts me and my process when they allow me to be creative and to let the juices flow,” Jonathan says. “I am only as good as the trust bestowed on me, which means I won’t let that client down.”



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