

SCOTLAND'S BIGGEST SELLING HOME MAGAZINE

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# HOMES

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## IN THE FRAME

# JONATHAN ADLER



[Above] Strong shapes with bold colours is a Jonathan Adler trademark – this is the dining room at his home in New York; [below] even the ping-pong bats get special covers

The hugely successful creator of quirky, colourful homewares lifts the lid on his inspirations

### HOW HAS YOUR STYLE EVOLVED OVER THE YEARS?

I started as a potter so my entire collection and style have been an evolution. As I began to experiment with new materials, collections and design in general, I was able to hone in on what my style was trying to convey. That message is that design should be 95% chic + 5% levity. This formula I dubbed Happy Chic, which is my company ethos and motto.

### WHO ARE YOUR BIGGEST INFLUENCES AND HEROES?

I have so many design heroes that it's hard to know where to begin. But I suppose that the Holy Trinity would be the Danish artist and designer Bjorn Winblad, fashion designer Bonnie Cashin and textile expert Alexander Girard. I love them because they all had incredible style – bold, quirky, innovative, chic – and they all beautifully expressed the joy of creativity.

### WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE BUILDING?

I loved the dearly departed Edward Durrell Stone building at 2 Columbus Circle in New York. It had the perfect blend of clean Modernism and a delightful layer of pattern and decoration. [It now has a controversial new façade.]

### DESCRIBE YOUR DREAM HOME

I think my new home on Shelter Island, just outside New York, is my dream home actualised. We just finished building it last year and I love it more than any place else. It's all windows and water in the distance, with a fabulous round fireplace and just enough room for close friends, and is a heavenly respite from NYC.

### DESCRIBE THE INTERIOR STYLE OF YOUR HOME

It is very eclectic. I painted everything white, including the floors, and have a mix of brightly coloured furniture and art that just pops. My husband Simon Doonan and I have a very high threshold for visual stimulus (he's a window dresser and writer), so our home is not for amateurs.

### WHAT MAKES A HOME?

A home is a place that makes you happy and is your favourite and most comforting place to be. Walking in the door of your home should feel like hearing your favourite song on the radio.

### HOW DO YOU RELAX?

Simon and I play a rousing game of ping-pong every night! We realised that we never used our formal living room so we had a ping-pong table custom built with Saarinen bases, plywood and some fab paisley wallpaper, plopped it in the middle of the room and now we use it every night.

### WHICH ICONIC INTERIOR PRODUCT DO YOU WISH YOU HAD DESIGNED?

I wouldn't have minded designing the Saarinen chair.

### WHAT ARE YOU SITTING ON RIGHT NOW?

I'm sitting at my desk in my new office in SoHo. I had my desk built out of plywood to be a regulation-size ping-pong table. I'm hoping to schedule a company round robin tournament for all my operatives. I'll win!

### WHAT IS SCOTLAND'S GREATEST ATTRIBUTE?

Its history of producing some of the world's most beautiful and classic fabrics – tartan! It has always been a favourite of mine. ■

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

