

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 11

# at home

## The Perfect Getaway A GUIDE TO VACATION HOMES

**FALL GARDENING 101**

COLORFUL BLOOMS, GREAT GOURDS & MORE

**PLUS**

**HIGH-FASHION  
HOMEWARE**



point of view

# MAD AS A POTTER

THE OUTRAGEOUS JONATHAN ADLER SHARES HIS SECRETS FOR BANISHING DULL DESIGN



**OH, THAT JONATHAN ADLER.** Just when you think he's giving you a straight answer, along comes a broadside that catches you off-guard. But, then, you might expect as much from the author of a book titled *Jonathan Adler on Happy Chic Accessorizing*. When the former talent agent became a full-time potter in the mid-90s, his design career took off. Besides operating a handful of U.S. stores, where his furniture line and home accessories are sold, Adler writes and makes TV appearances—giving him a “teeny soupçon of notoriety” that yields the occasional airline upgrade. —*Jim Brosseau*

**If chic can be “happy,” what other emotions can it be?** Rooms can be designed for looks over comfort, designed to impress rather than to enjoy. That’s sad.

**What accessory can work in nearly any home?** Orchids! They always look fab.

**Does telling people you’re a potter give you an edge at cocktail parties?** At worst, people simply turn and walk away. In New York, I don’t think they see much to gain from befriending a potter when there’s always an adjacent hedge-funder to cozy up to. At best, I am regaled with stories about 18th-century Chinese urn collections or commentary about *Ghost*.

**What’s your best yard-sale find?** A \$20 plaster bust of Michael Jackson with glitter and epaulets, circa *Thriller*.

**Which U.S. city do you think has a lot of great houses?** L.A. is *la* best! Modernism, old Spanish, Hollywood Regency, hippie dippie—all the great architecture is there, and I love it!

**What have you learned from your customers?** Having my own stores has made me a better designer. I have a better understanding of what people need, how stuff needs to function, what people want.

**Is there a common misstep people make in decorating their homes?** They get nervous and opt for bland instead of bold.

**Do you believe that homes have karma?** Nothing that a healthy dose of orange won’t set right.