

**WHAT  
KATIE PRICE  
DID NEXT**  
JORDAN  
REVEALS ALL  
(figuratively speaking)

Say cheese, Ma'am  
Exclusive Patrick Lichfield  
pictures of the Queen  
at rest and play

Technicolour dream flat  
At home with the interiors  
whizz Jonathan Adler

**FOOD**

Grate or what?  
Diana Henry cooks  
with parmesan



stella



# Hello *kitschy*

Where can you find burnt orange, lime green and purple all in the one room, with a few camp flourishes thrown in for good measure? Why, in Jonathan Adler's New York flat. **DOMINIC BRADBURY** takes a walk on the really wild side...

PHOTOGRAPHS BY RICHARD POWERS



Clockwise from left: in the sitting-room the rug, sofa, striped chairs, chandelier and ceramic dogs are all by Adler; two Saarinen table bases with a bespoke plywood top covered in Cole & Son wallpaper make a chic Ping-Pong table; 1960s blown-glass clown heads on the dining-room mantelpiece under a 1970s French apple picture; Adler ceramic vases



The interiors impresario Jonathan Adler, whose London shop opens next week, has put delight back into design. His look fuses colour and pattern with a sophisticated mid-century feel, and a dash of 1970s kitsch. He calls it 'happy chic' and it has made him much in demand. Having started out making pots, Adler now has an empire that runs to shops and books, furniture and fabrics, homes and hotels, including the Parker in Palm Springs.

There is lots of 'happy chic' in the Manhattan apartment he shares with Simon Doonan, the English writer and creative director of Barneys department store, and their terrier, Liberate. 'Because Simon and I work in very visual fields, we do need to crank up the excitement at home to get

a rise,' says Adler. 'That's how we are visually. It needs to be a little extreme now and then.'

Adler's living-room mixes a large black leather rhino with a Gae Aulenti marble coffee table, a lime green Joe Colombo armchair and many self-designed pieces, including the geometric rug and burnt-orange sofa. In Adler's hands the combination of colours and retro touches works endearingly well, partly because there is often a simple backdrop of white walls and ceilings.

'I grew up in a mid-century house and I now realise my apartment is a perfect reflection of the house I grew up in,' Adler says. 'It was very white and modernist but with bold bursts of colour that came from my mother. My dad was a rigorous

## INTERIORS



Clockwise from left: a George Nelson dining-table stands on an Adler rug; an orange damask design contrasts with the 'choccy-brown' walls of the bedroom; Adler's orange-lacquered Parsons table in the hall with Philippe Starck for Kartell gnomes and a mirror by Studio 2x4; the bathroom, with a giant lightbulb found on eBay

modernist but my mother is more exuberant and used lots of Marimekko fabrics. White is the most optimistic colour and I love to create a white shell and then layer colour with abandon.'

Doonan bought one half of the apartment 17 years ago and then Adler snapped up the flat next door in 2001 and the two were knocked together. The most dramatic elements have to be two vast, barrel-vaulted rooms that sit back to back with high moulded ceilings and soaring windows. One serves as a dining-room, complete with a George Nelson dining-table once owned by Nelson himself, sitting on a rug of Adler's design made of intersecting blue circles. The room alongside is dominated by a Ping-Pong table coated in a striking Cole & Son wallpaper. 'I'm a big advocate of Ping-Pong tables,' says Adler. 'You can just lose yourself when you play. It's a great icebreaker for parties but also the perfect way for spouses to get rid of any pent-up aggression.'

Doonan asked for a 'super comfy' study, as he spends a lot of time at home writing; his book *Beautiful People* was adapted for the BBC. But here, too, there's plenty of colour and pattern, with a sleek Albrizzi desk on a Union Jack rug, with a matching floor cushion close by for Liberace.

'Home should be very ebullient and pattern should be everywhere, because why not?' Adler says. 'We presumed that we would be living here for a long time and I wanted things that would delight me. With the interiors, Simon pretty much lets me go for it but we are very much on the same page. We both like things to be bright, poppy and graphic, as well as personal and eccentric.'



A slim staircase lined with a geometric wallpaper by Adler and a striking carpet by the decorator David Hicks leads up to the master bedroom and bathroom. Here things are done a little differently, with the bedroom designed as an evening retreat. Walls Adler describes as 'choccy brown' are juxtaposed with orange damask fabric in the alcove behind the bed. 'We wanted something squishy and comfy,' Adler says. 'The anchor is the David Hicks carpet. Hicks was a big influence on me and not just because of the groovy geometrics, but for his sense of abandon and boldness.'

Like Hicks before him, Adler has taken his own path. He has put the fun and pleasure back into a world that was in danger of taking itself much too seriously. His many devotees just love him for it. ●



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The Jonathan Adler shop opens on 1 October at 60 Sloane Avenue, London SW3 ([jonathanadler.com](http://jonathanadler.com))