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FASHIONABLE DESIGN

Miles Redd infuses old-world charm with new-school vitality



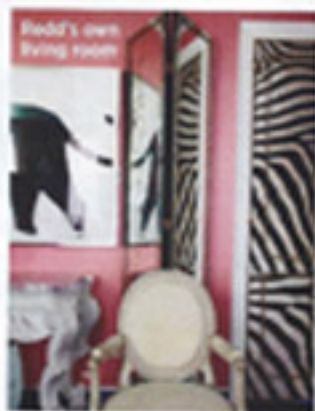
Miles Redd in bed

"Cory glamour" is how Miles Redd turns up his brand of interior design, which revitalizes traditional WASP elegance with Crayola-bright color palettes and a fondness for animal prints. In Redd's hands, a classic tufted chesterfield gets upholstered in plum velvet, zebras roam on powder room walls, and John Singer Sargent mingles with Art Deco. "I like a sense of fantasy and drama," says the author of last fall's *The Big Book of Chic*, his Southern accent winking with each observation.

One of them is that chintz is poised for a comeback. And not just a little bit. Think Queen Victoria gone rogue. "No one's really doing Geoffrey Bennett rooms: chintz on chintz on chintz," Redd explains, referring to the late English decorator. "A modernized *Downton Abbey*," he concludes. Which is also how he describes some of Oscar de la Renta's rooms. "I've learned so much from [de la Renta and his wife, Arnette] in terms of furniture plans, layering. They're the last word in high style."



A client's Manhattan home



Redd's own living room

And Redd would know—he's the creative director of de la Renta's home line. For Redd, whose clients include generations of families (Allison Sirofen and her billionaire father, Fayer, New York's Frelinghuysen clan), patterns can endure, while they may falter at fashion's whim. "I put ikats in the family of animal prints," he says of the everlasting ones. He has his peeves, though. Among them: "People who don't understand us," banchy slipcovers, and curtains that don't touch the floor. "I know Thom Browne has made high-water chic," Redd says, laughing. "But it does not cross over." **Claire Howarth**

MILES REDD'S MUST-HAVES



Pinesider stationery
"Mine is pale blue with red pinstripes."



Desktop efficiency
"Black Flair pens in horn cups, in quantities."



Schwaitzer linens
"Their white sheets with three-line gray embroidery."



Strong prints
"I love something graphic—an ikat or a stripe."



Oscar de la Renta candles
"Not to plug, but they're fantastic and delicious."



Lighting
"Christopher Spitzer has the coolest lamps."