



CENTER OF ATTENTION

If walls could talk, what sentiments would they share about what makes your house a home?

WHAT WOULD THEY SAY is the one sentimental object that commands the center of attention? Is it a Turkish rug you hauled across three continents, your children's framed artwork, a hand-hewn chair your grandfather made, or an antique mirror that reflects a heritage so rich in culture, you want to immerse yourself in its story? Meet three Knoxville interior designers who have discovered prized possessions of their clients and used them to inspire a room, a house or a myriad of projects. If they showed up on your doorstep, what's the one treasure you would hand them for inspiration?

AS EARLY AS 2nd grade, Todd had an eye for design when he picked out the rug for his parents' library. That same rug has transcended three room re-decorations and still remains underfoot. For one client, a colorful glass collection has become "the rug" in their home and the inspiration for color in three of their other homes around the country. "These bottles, like antiques, have scars from the stories they could tell but age beautifully," describes Todd. "I knew immediately our client loved color, was eclectic but liked old. We've used a variation on these colors for every project and repeatedly refer back to them for vision." Todd's design approach is holistic from designing a house to installing window treatments—and anything in

TODD RICHESIN Masterful Color Scheme

between. His intrigue with smaller, interesting projects keeps him creatively challenged, like a houseboat he transformed or John and Mable Ringling's private railroad car for the Ringling Museum in Sarasota, FL that he helped design and restore, "I think people's domains should be a snapshot of their personalities, down to the way it smells and their music selection." Todd says. "And if I can't get a clear portrayal of a client's personality then I look in their closet." Todd likes to remind people you don't have to start with a blank slate. "Identify the things you treasure and work around them. You might not be able to do an extreme makeover, but anyone can collect bottles." bobbytoddantiques.com

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