



## MICHAEL RABATIN

FORMER NEW YORK FASHION EXECUTIVE AND CURRENT GABBERTS DESIGN DIRECTOR TRANSLATES FASHION INTO INTERIOR DESIGN.

### TELL ME ABOUT YOUR STYLE.

This is one of my many looks. I feel more comfortable wearing suits and ties than casual wear. I'm about 30-percent preppy and 70-percent classic-with-a-twist. But for me, it has to be pure, head to toe, top to bottom.

### WHAT ABOUT TODAY?

This is my preppy look. I am wearing Ralph Lauren pants and blazer, a custom-made belt from NantucketGirl.com and a custom western shirt that was made in Bangkok. I tucked in the tie for an old '30s Hollywood, Cary Grant feel.

### I THINK MOST PEOPLE TEND TO BE AFRAID OF MIXING PATTERNS, BUT YOU MAKE IT WORK.

I am not afraid to mix stripes with other patterns. There is a lot you can do with patterns. I tend to be fastidious when it comes to the accessory details—cuff links, pearl buttons, pocket squares.

### WHERE DID YOU GET YOUR KNACK FOR STYLE?

I learned a lot about wardrobing during my time in New York when I worked for Ralph Lauren for 13 years. I was in men's apparel for nine years and then managed the home/interiors business for five years. I came to the job loving green and left loving navy.

### WHAT ELSE DID YOU LEARN?

To pay attention to quality, first and foremost. Then have your clothing tailored to fit you properly. I may buy off the rack, but then I have it custom fitted. Put money into great quality staple pieces and then add unique accessories. That translates to interior design too.

### HOW SO?

Buy quality first, then use accessories, textures and patterns to make it unique to you. I encourage clients to truly make sure they get something that reflects their personal style. No one wants the same living room as someone else, people crave uniqueness.

### ANY FAVORITE TRENDS OR TRIED-AND-TRUE ADVICE FOR HOME DÉCOR RIGHT NOW?

Stay away from trends because they never last. Good quality is the best trend because it never goes out of style. You can always change the look of great quality furniture through pillows, throws, patterns, fabric, paint and trims. Accessories can be changed with every whim or mood. My advice is to think about what makes you happy, unique and reflects your passions—and then go for it. +

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