



Haynes Robinson

ELEMENTS OF PILE

FOR HAYNES ROBINSON, DESIGNING RUGS TAKES MORE THAN JUST FANCY FOOTWORK.

BY SARAH GLEIM

Working in home design was a natural fit for Haynes Robinson, a rug designer and owner of Rugs by Robinson at the Atlanta Decorative Arts Center. His mother, Betty Robinson, has been an interior designer in Atlanta for 38 years. "I grew up reading and studying interior design; it's the way I was raised," he says. "I've been carrying shopping bags at ADAC since I was 5 years old." After working for 79th Street Rug Shop in his teens and studying psychology at the University of Georgia, Robinson eventually opened his showroom in 1985. Now he imports traditional and contemporary rugs from all over the world, and designs his own line, Sahar by Haynes Robinson. Favoring clean lines and unique forms, he says his biggest creative influences are designers David Hicks and Billy

Baldwin, and contemporary artist Mark Rothko. But what fascinates him most about rug design is the creative process, specifically the ancient culture of weaving, and what he calls "a fusion of contemporary design and tribal culture." "Right now I'm using tribal weavers in Iran, but I don't give them a design graph, only a rough layout," he says. "I let them interpret the design on their own." The end result, he says, is a totally unique piece of art. When asked how those designs fit into Atlanta, Robinson is quick to point out the design shift he's witnessed in his lifetime. "We've gone from more English-style interiors to more minimal and contemporary design," he says. "But when I design something contemporary, it still has to hold up over time."

PORTRAIT BY YVONNE BOYD



MUST HAVES

1. FLOOR ART: SYNERGY RUG BY HAYNES ROBINSON: Part of the Sahar by Haynes Robinson collection, this rug is handwoven by tribal Persians. The wool is gathered from local flocks, spun by hand, and dyed using colors derived from native fruit and flowers. Available at Rugs by Robinson in ADAC, 404.364.9042 or www.rugsbyrobinson.com; trade only. **2. FLOWER POWER: JONATHAN ADLER VASES:** Robinson loves pottery by designer Jonathan Adler, including this unique "Relief Cactus" vase, part of the Relief collection. Available at Belvedere, 404.352.1942, www.belvedereinc.com or www.jonathanadler.com. **3. TWIST AND SHOUT: RAMILLE OCCASIONAL TABLE:** Mattaliano's table, with its glass top and



twisted base, adds a sculptural element to any room. Available at Renfro in ADAC, 404.869.6600 or www.renfroatlanta.com; trade only. **4. DIVINE DINING: CUSTOM PINE TABLE:** The centerpiece of Robinson's dining room is this custom-crafted table built from reclaimed pine. It once was part of a French cheesemaker's table—and you can still see rings on it where the cheeses were stored and aged. Available through Anne Flaire Antiques, 404.352.1960. **5. HOT SPOT: COCO CHAIR:** This ultra-chic chair with an acrylic frame is from New York designer Geoffrey Bradfield's Millinuum Collection. Available at the Travis & Co. showroom in ADAC, 404.237.5079; trade only. ▲