

DESIGN + DECOR

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Living Beautifully

with Intention, Soul and Style

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A modern kitchen with white cabinetry, gold hardware, and a blue and white patterned backsplash. The kitchen features a large island with a white countertop and a wooden base. The backsplash is made of blue and white tiles with a fan-like pattern. The cabinets have gold handles and knobs. The floor is made of light wood. The ceiling has recessed lighting and a crown molding. The overall design is clean and bright.

JONATHAN GORDON

DESIGN BY THE JONATHANS

DESIGN ROOTED IN JOY, REALIZED WITH INTENT

WRITTEN BY DANIELLE PORTER



Classic cabinetry and modern brass pendants frame this kitchen, where warmth, balance and function create beauty for everyday living.



The spaces we inhabit should feel like an everyday reflection of joy. That belief guides Jonathan Gordon, owner and lead designer at Design by the Jonathans. For him, beauty can appear in fleeting moments—a passing sunset, a cherished memory—but intent is what transforms those moments into something lasting. His practice is built around that idea: identifying what clients are drawn to, and embedding it into their homes so living beautifully isn't a rare occasion, but an everyday experience.

For Jonathan, the process always begins with listening. He approaches each project as an act of empathy, setting aside his own preferences to see through the eyes of the people who will live there. Some gravitate toward crisp minimalism, others toward layered tradition. By paying attention not only to what they say but also to their lifestyle, routines, habits and fashion sense, he uncovers the details that shape a space. "The more you understand a client's story," he explains, "the easier it becomes to design a space that truly reflects who they are."

In the tri-state region, those stories are often grounded in architectural details that have stood the test of time.

In the tristate region, those stories often find grounding in architectural details that have stood the test of time. Divided-light windows, Colonial layouts, beadboard accents and hexagon-tiled powder room floors may seem subtle, but they carry a sense of permanence. Woven into Jonathan's projects, these elements root modern homes in a sense of history and belonging.

This permanence and tradition meet innova-





Designed for real life, this living room balances comfort and sophistication, telling a story as unique as the family who lives here.



This powder room is a small space with big personality, where botanical walls, cane-front cabinetry, and brass accents bring a timeless pattern to life in a modern way.

tion seamlessly in his work. A home built with cutting-edge materials can still carry the elegance of a classic Colonial. Porcelain countertops can mimic marble's timeless look while eliminating its upkeep. Sustainable choices, reclaimed wood floors, induction ranges, and low-volatile-organic-compound paints show that environmental responsibility can exist hand in hand with sophistication. To achieve such feats in design, he believes that open communication between designer, builder and architect is what elevates a project from good to extraordinary. The smallest decisions, such as a tile edge or the proportion of millwork, can determine whether a room feels intentional or unfinished. "The best teams," Jonathan notes, "are the ones who respect each other's strengths and never hesitate to ask questions."

Today's clients are drawn to palettes of warm whites and neutrals accented with organic textures and unexpected patterns. Jonathan tailors this framework to each family, layering individuality into a shared aesthetic. "The style may be shared," he notes, "but the story is always different." Looking forward, he believes one thing will remain constant: the desire to love where and how we live. "As long as that remains true," he says, "there will always be a place for living beautifully." ♦

Resources: **Designer:** Design by the Jonathans; Jonathan Gordon, Owner & Lead Designer; New Haven, CT; 203.557.3205; thejonathans.com.