

ADVOCATE

PRESTON HOLLOW

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contents

PRESTON HOLLOW ADVOCATE
VOL. 23 NO. 1

PROFILE

8 Decorating Dallas

DINING

12 Bangkok Dee
Thai

FEATURES

16 The bad doctors

22 Going Greek

COLUMNS

27 Worship:
Resloution or
intention?

Sketches from Eddie
Maestri's studio.
Read more on page 8.
Photography by Jessica
Turner.



DECORATING DALLAS

Neighborhood interior designer opens studio

Interview by **ALYSSA HIGH** | Photography by **JESSICA TURNER**

Surrounded by colorful wallpaper, varying wood tones, a kid-friendly pool and many dog-friendly couches, neighbor Eddie Maestri turns his artistic visions into stunning homes across Dallas.

Maestri started designing homes in 2004 and founded Maestri Studio in 2008. He draws his interior inspiration from his undergraduate and graduate courses at Texas A&M, his semester in Italy focusing on architectural and urban studies and his travels around the world. In fact, Maestri's own Preston Hollow home is inspired by Palm Springs.

Maestri, his husband Adam Moore and their twin boys moved to Preston Hollow from Lakewood during the pandemic, seeking a bigger property but never expecting to find a waterfront property in North Dallas.

The decor pulls from the styles of Palm Springs and New Orleans, creating a clean but colorful space. Eclectic is an understatement. The decor is a conglomeration of mid-century collectors pieces, Anthropologie and Jonathan Adler, mirroring the varied styles he's done in dozens of homes across Dallas. The home was featured in *Architectural Digest* in 2021.

Maestri Studio opened its gallery in 2018, displaying art curated from a variety of artists and vintage pieces imported from around the world. The studio is located in East Dallas inside Maestri Studio, where his team plans full-service projects that include architecture, interior design, furnishings, art and landscaping.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PROJECT THAT YOU'VE WORKED ON?

This probably sounds a little corny but I would say I've really enjoyed working on my personal house because I really got to experiment the most here and do some things where I don't have to worry about being safe for a client. It's been really fun. As far as other jobs go, there's so many that are really great and that

I enjoy, but they're always designing for a client and I think it's been really fun on (my home) in particular just to kind of go all out and be more bold.

DO YOU HAVE A PIECE IN YOUR HOME THAT DEFINES YOUR PERSONAL TASTE?

As far as one piece of furniture, I tend to change things a lot. That's one of the curses of being in this industry is that you always see new things. I have pieces that I love that are heirloom pieces that are kind of worn, and I love a good patina on furniture. The overall general house is very much our personality. There (are) some things that are quirky and fun, and there (are) other areas that are kind of formal. There's not one or two pieces in particular that I'm like "Hey, that's me in a nutshell." It's very eclectic and I tend to move things around a lot.

YOU LIVED IN LAKEWOOD FOR 17 YEARS. WHAT MADE YOU PICK UP AND MOVE TO PRESTON HOLLOW?

Never in a million years did I think we'd ever leave. We loved it so much. We just couldn't find what we really needed out of a house. When we moved everything was shut down, but we had a good year and a half of really not going anywhere. It's been fantastic because we live right by NorthPark Center and Preston Center. We love going up there for dinner and it's been our new little downtown.

WITH SUCH A CAREFULLY CURATED SPACE, HOW DO YOU KEEP IT MAGAZINE-READY WITH TWO KIDS AND A DOG?

I don't have anything that is so precious that it is the end of the world if it gets damaged. I have my great grandma's chairs in the living room and they are kind of worn, so the kids climb all over them and it doesn't bother me. I was very careful to do a lot of high-per-



formance fabrics. In fact, I had my gray sofa maybe not even 24 hours before my son took a Sharpie and wrote all over it — it came right off with water. There's a lot of selections that we've done (with) the pieces and fabrics so they can be friendly for kids and pets.

AFTER DOING INTERIOR DESIGN FOR ALMOST 20 YEARS, WHAT LED YOU TO OPENING A GALLERY?

For me it was a natural extension to what we do. Art is the inspiration for a lot of things, a lot of details and the way that finishes come together and architectural details can be stripped down into art. Then it goes full circle, usually the final piece that goes into the house is a nice piece of art. It is inspiration being exposed daily to art, and when clients visit the studio, they are inspired as well.

Interview has been edited for clarity and brevity.

Above: Seating area in Eddie Maestri's studio near Deep Ellum.
Left: House model at Maestri Studio.