



covered in decades of dust, and had a mirror made to fit the frame. He also acquired a full-scale drawing of a soup tureen that was done by famous 18th century English silver smith Paul de Lamerie, which hangs in the library. To complete the home's age-old feel, Johnson purchased the English antique desk and cabinet for the living room from Whit Hanks in Austin.

If a life well-lived is a life well-collected, then it's never been more apparent than in this home. Stone has a collection of pierced sterling saltcellars which are used at dinner parties, often serving both white and black salt. Johnson has a collection of Japanese Netsukes and antique Meissen china from his grandmother, who was born in the King William district in the early 1900's. Johnson keeps an annual date with his mother, a Houstonian, to attend the Houston Antique Dealers Association (HADA) show, and over the years has purchased several items for the household since moving to King William. If a home is the canvas of one's life, then the art is what may give it character

most. "The paintings in the dining room are 19th century (German and English works) from my great-grandparents," states Johnson. "The vintage flags were purchased from Jeff Bridgman Antiques in Pennsylvania. The small parade flag in the library dates to 1876, the year the house was built." He goes on to say, "The Rembrandt etching in living room was a housewarming gift from my father, and there's a Damien Hirst spot print in the entry hall we purchased from Gallery Maximilian on a trip to Aspen."

The Henry Rayburn pencil drawing of the Chabot house was a Birthday gift from the Stone family to Johnson that was drawn right after the couple moved in. "Henry literally sat across the street each morning with his coffee in one hand, and his sketch pad in the other," muses Johnson. Rayburn died the following year. A man that was loved by many, there was standing room only at the memorial service held for him in the neighborhood, according to the couple.



Opposite; The living room's book collection, the master closet. This page: the guest quarters, bow tie collection, fleet of Mercedes sedans.

When asked which rooms in particular are used the most, Johnson emphatically says, "That's easy: The living, dining room, and library. These rooms are used frequently when we entertain. Generally, we serve cocktails and appetizers in the living room, the salad and entrée in the dining room, and dessert and coffee in the library. Moving from room to room helps keep the evening going."

Dinner parties here tend to be formal. The household staff is counted on to prepare the food and serve guests at the dining table. This is rarely done today, even in homes far grander than the Chabot house. "Because of Leland's background in boutique hotel management from Cornell University, he is willing and able to train the staff on the proper methods of preparing and presenting an elegant meal," says Johnson.

The home's estate also contains classic Mercedes cars that reflect the owners' commitment to style. Beyond that area, the carriage house on the property serves as Stone's office. "The remodeled upstairs apartment is perfect for guests," enthuses Johnson. "It has its own small kitchen area and bathroom (with English fittings from Leland's showroom). Stone's home office and display area is downstairs, and features various high-end lines of plumbing, lighting, and hardware he sells. The lower level also houses what Stone calls a commercial "kitchenette" – professional grade appliances in a very small kitchen, laid out to maximize efficiency so that the staff can churn out a gourmet dinner for six to 60 people."

With a life well-lived in a home well-designed, expect to see it as the center of many gatherings in the future. 🍷

