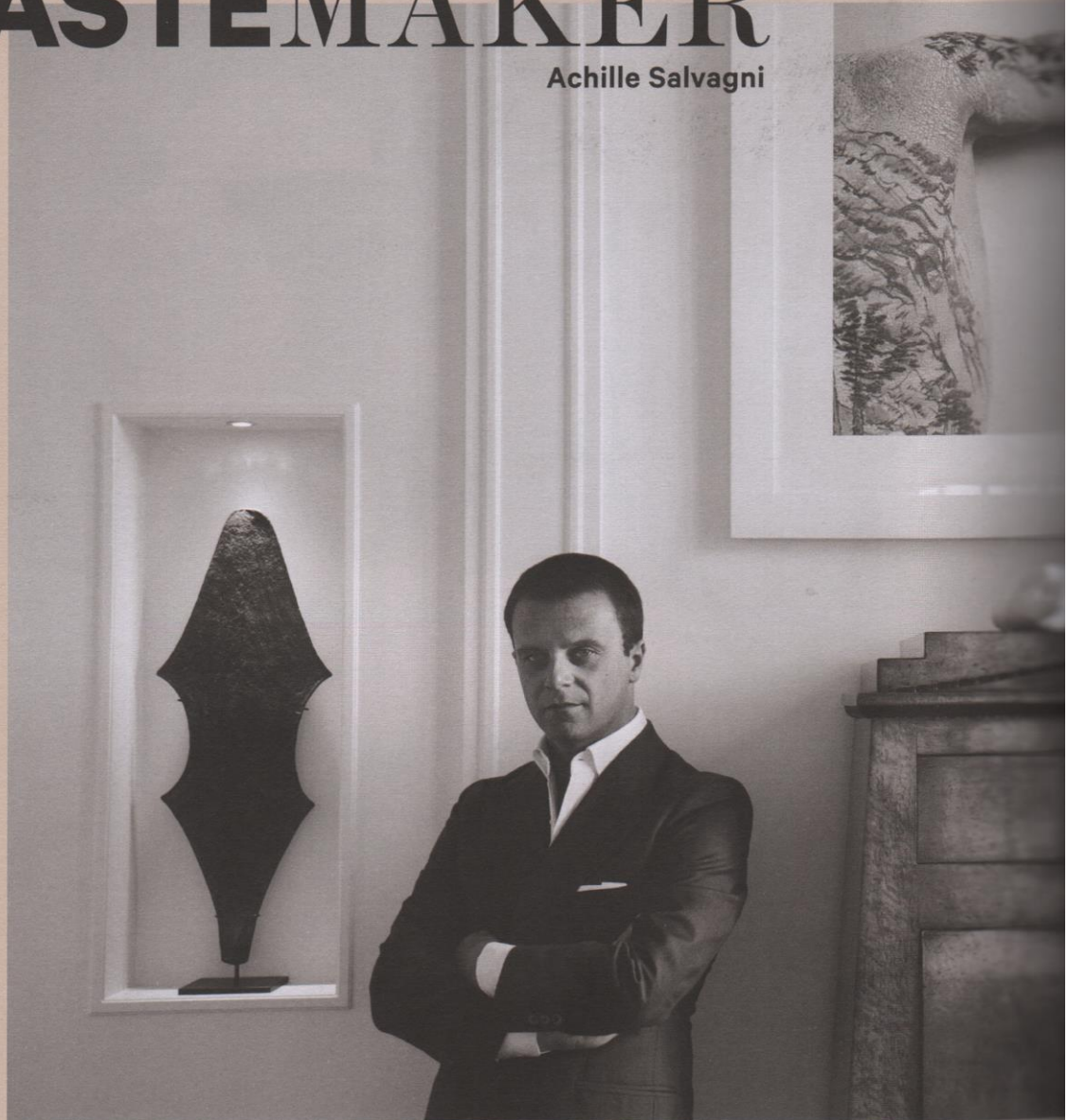


Bubbles 24k gold-plated bronze and backlit onyx table lamp with black Zimbabwe granite base from Achille Salvagni Atelier

TASTEMAKER

Achille Salvagni



Inspired by his native Rome, *Salvagni* is in demand both as an **interior designer for luxury property and superyachts**, and for his own range of elegant products

Words James Collard



Marble and bronze, alabaster and onyx, sleekly polished wood and rugs inspired by classical myths... For all the luxe and sleek modernity of Achille Salvagni's products – and his admiration for 20th-century design heroes such as Gio Ponti and Paolo Buffa – this native of Rome also draws a great deal of inspiration from the Italian Renaissance and the ancient world. Witness his latest collection, 'Pompeii', currently showing in his Mayfair atelier, which forms the backdrop for our style shoot on p96.

'I'm Italian and I was born and raised in Rome,' he says. 'It's hard for any Roman to overlook that art, that cultural background.' And yet Salvagni also describes spending a year at Stockholm's Royal Institute of Technology – having previously studied design in his home city – as a creative turning point. 'I decided to cool down my roots, from the Renaissance, from baroque,' he says of his time in Sweden. Fascinated by the purity of Scandinavian design, on his return he sought to create a balance between the two influences: 'Simple, iconic, but precious at the same time.' Another inspiration? The particular challenge of designing his award-winning interiors for superyachts, a move that in turn brought about his first commissioned pieces for New York's Maison Gerard gallery.

Today, Salvagni divides his time between Rome, where he lives with his wife Valentina and their children in a stunningly refurbished turn-of-the-19th-century apartment, and London, where he has his own atelier on Grafton Street – plus wherever in the world he happens to have a domestic interior on the go.

'When it became clear that I wouldn't be able to organise and set up my shows in someone else's gallery with complete freedom, I decided to open my own space right in the heart of London,' he explains. 'If Rome is the best place in the world to find inspiration and create, London is the best window in Europe, the best place to show my work. It's culturally diverse and international in spirit, making it the best platform to connect with my high-end clientele.' achilleslavagni.com

Backlit handcarved onyx and bronze piece from Achille Salvagni Atelier

