

NOVEMBER 2014

AVENUE



BLOOD SPORT

JAZZ JOHNSON and **DIRK WITTENBORN**
present the *Social Climber's Bible*



Brian J. McCarthy imagines a
luncheon for *Albert Hadley's* ladies

White plates and bowls by and from the Belgian designer Toos van de Velde, tooswandevelde.com; gold-rimmed plates by J.L. Coquet, available at Bergdorf Goodman, 745 Fifth Avenue, 212.753.7300, bergdorfgoodman.com. Sterling silver flatware by Lapparra of France; Josef Hoffman-designed crystal wineglass by J & L Leobmeyr, available at neuegalerie.org. Round crystal water glass by Deborah Ehrlich, deboraherlich.com.



"Albert was a master editor whose personal style was quite simple and yet extremely refined and never precious."



My table setting is an homage to my mentor and great friend Albert Hadley, who sadly passed away in March of 2012 after a remarkable life. Many of both Albert and [business partner] Sister Parish's clients were the original "ladies who lunch." I thought it would be great fun to re-create a luncheon table setting here in our office for his "ladies" in the style that Albert might have set if he were alive today. Albert was a master editor whose personal style was quite simple and yet extremely refined and never precious. It was all about the line of things, and so I chose to keep the palette here very neutral so as to emphasize the simplicity and elegance of the clean white organic ceramic by Roos van de Velde and the modern clean lines of the delicate glassware by Deborah Ehrlich while introducing a pair of 19th-century gilt bronze candlesticks into the mix. The only pop of "color" comes from the beautiful flowers, which I purchased that very morning at the flower market here in NYC on West 29th Street. While Albert loved the 18th century he was also very much a modernist. The chairs that surround our luncheon table are by the great 1930s designer Jean Michel Frank who also respected and loved the 18th century but reinterpreted it in a more modern aesthetic. I can certainly see Albert and "the ladies" having a great time here over a leisurely lunch discussing fashion, politics, NYC gossip and of course the next decorating project at their respective homes. —Brian McCarthy

Linen place mats and embroidered linen napkins by Nancy Stanley Waud Fine Linens in Los Angeles: 310.273.3690, nstanleywad@earthlink.net. Glass and gold leaf water pitcher by Gilmor Glassworks of Millerton, NY; available at gilmorglass.com



Brian J. McCarthy — Albert Hadley