

Curate something uniquely your own
from your next far-away vacation

AT HOME IN THE *world*

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As well as enriching your life, jet-setting to a new travel destination every year can infuse a wealth of uniquely curated decor into your home. It is one of the best and simplest luxuries that everyone should take advantage of. Just think of how your mind, body and soul will be inspired.

When it comes to decor and design, I truly believe that travel provides a myriad of opportunities to bring something new and exciting to clients. The first questions I ask clients are: Do you travel? Where have you been? And where would you like to go? Even if someone is too busy to travel, I can get started with some clients' destination clues and points of interest.

Colour is so influential. The turquoise blue waters of far-away oceans to the greenest of greens in a tropical rain forest; they all have validity and a certain point of view. But most individuals would not necessarily like to have a bright green room. As a colour expert and decorator, I can turn your travel inspirations into reality, in a space that you can live with.

In this particular project, these homeowners hail from Johannesburg, South Africa, and they love colour and the culture that they left behind 25 years ago. Their collection of original artworks from South Africa provided great building blocks to create and decorate their home.





With such bold colours in the artwork, we wanted to create a neutral base palette with big, bright pops of colour. The walls were painted in a soft cream (Acadia White OC-38) with classical trim (Cloud White CC-40) to establish the foundation.

The two chartreuse chairs, sourced at a local retailer, were coupled with hot-pink lumbar pillows. The sofa was upholstered in a natural, tight linen weave, and light ivory drapery panels framed the window, without detracting from the glory of the jewels in the room. Bright bold colours line the sofa with a collection of fabrics; a multi-coloured flame-stitch pattern, multi-coloured rosette tufting, reminiscent of the feather wall crowns so familiar with South African decor, and a thin multi-coloured stripe.

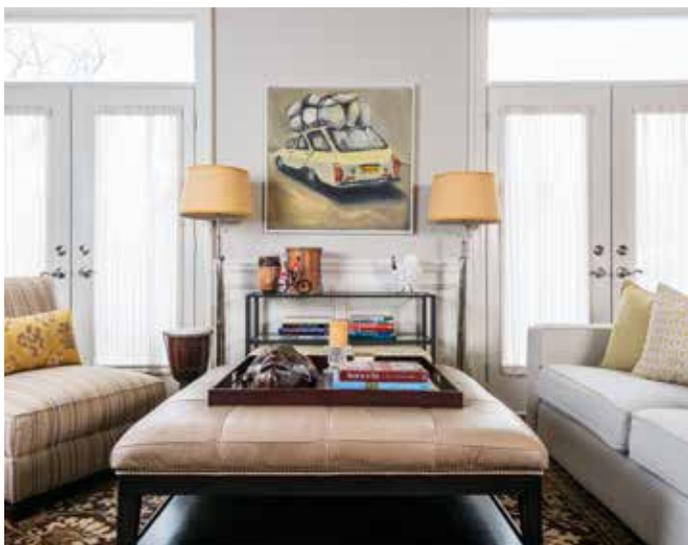
The coffee table was an existing piece they had and worked well with the room to provide a traditional element for continuity within the house. The combination of traditional lines in the fireplace and mouldings, and a few touches of some mid-century furniture created an updated and modern space.

Interestingly enough, the area rug was chosen after we had decided on these gorgeous fabrics. But, as fate would have it, we were able to source this stunning silk carpet with numerous striations of the bright colours found in the artwork and in the pillows and accessories.

The collection of accessories is what really brings the global influences directly into a home and is certainly evident in this living room. Iron currency pieces were legal tender in Africa and provide a wonderful sculptural history of its money exchange. The colourful beaded and shell woman sculptures are all handcrafted to reflect the beauty and individuality of the people of South Africa and their way of life. The mirrors continue to add sculpture and dimension, and reference the feather crown headdresses.

A comfortable home is important to your well-being. Travelling to wonderful and beautiful places also brings a sense of contentment.

When you do travel, look for something that you love and bring it home. Let it be the foundation of a new room. It doesn't have to be large or small, just that one thing that inspires you and reminds you of this treasured and meaningful place—that is until you travel again to another great destination. ♦



SOURCES: SOFA, CHARTREUSE CHAIRS, AREA CARPET, Elte.com; PAINT, benjaminmoore.com; CUSTOM PILLOWS AND DRAPERY, resourcelifestyles.com

Paul Semkuley, a Toronto-based interior stylist and principal of re-source lifestyles, successfully incorporates the client's existing collection of furniture and family treasures in unique and unpredictable ways. Resourcelifestyles.com

