

MAY 2013

House Beautiful

Designer Tips & Secrets

MIRROR MAGIC TRANQUIL COLORS
LIVE-IN KITCHENS GLOBAL STYLE
MIXING VINTAGE & MODERN

50

THINGS YOU NEED TO
KNOW ABOUT SOFAS!

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The layering of pattern on pattern in this Lake Michigan house starts with the living room fireplace, decorated with kaleidoscopic Moroccan tile from Urban Archaeology. Designer Martin Horner of Soucie Horner upholstered the sofas in not one, but two fabrics—Dedar's Sottosopra on the frame and Bergamo's Ueria on the cushions. Throw pillows made out of vintage textiles by Lynda O'Connor add more color. C&C Milano's Pienza Rafano covers the club chairs. Rug by Oscar Isberian.



EXOTIC ALLURE

IT'S EASIER THAN EVER TO
DESIGN WITH CULTURAL TREASURES
FROM AROUND THE WORLD

CHRISTINE PITTEL: What's all this Moroccan tile doing in a summer retreat on Lake Michigan?

MARTIN HORNER: I was in Morocco, and I fell under its spell. You walk down a street in Marrakech, and it's narrow and dusty—not beautiful at all—but push open a door, and you'll see amazing tile, glorious gardens. All the magic happens behind closed doors.

It's a surprise inside—like this house.

Exactly. In Michigan, people are expecting boats and buoys, and then they walk in and say, 'Wow.' Here are all these treasures—handwoven fabric, exotic tile, ebonized furniture inlaid with mother-of-pearl. It's as if the clients came back from a trip to the Orient with all these artifacts and incorporated them into the house. And it takes you on a journey as well.

How so?

As you travel through the rooms, your eye darts around to different objects. There's always something new to discover. You never get bored. I see layer after layer of color and pattern in the living room. Where did you start?

With the fireplace—the focal point. We took three standard tile patterns and made a custom design out of them. I chose the paisley for the sofas because I liked its large-scale pattern and the suggestion of India. My client's taste is very eclectic. She loves ethnic pieces and that handmade, rustic look. The pillow fabrics are handwoven.

What does all this texture and pattern give you?

It's visually stimulating. And it draws you in. I'm a very tactile person. As a young boy, I was always in trouble because I was constantly touching things. In this house, you want to touch all the fabrics, go over to the shelves and pick up one of the tramp art pieces, which are basically made out of old cigar boxes.

Turning scrap into sculpture...

Artisans would take a simple flat piece of wood and carve facets into it. In some way, the tramp art relates to the fretwork screens, which were inspired by something I saw in Bali. Originally the foyer, the living room, the dining room, and the kitchen were all one big, open space. This is a relatively new house, built about five years ago, and our clients thought this big space felt too generic. So we bumped out that bay to create a real dining room and added the screens to define the various areas without dividing them.

You've managed to make the house more traditional and more eccentric at the same time. How

many different cultures would you say are represented in the library?

Let's see: There's a Fortuny light fixture, a vintage American flag, wood columns carved in Bali with a traditional Balinese design, throw pillows made from Japanese obis—stop me if you're getting dizzy.

Not yet. Don't forget the Moroccan tile fireplace in the living room—although the one in the master bedroom is my favorite.

The colors of the tile there are softer and more soothing, since it's a bedroom.

And then you had the nerve to add an intricately patterned wallpaper as well. How do you keep from going too far?

It's definitely a risk. I thought, 'Oh, my gosh, this is kind of crazy,' but I think it works, because the blues in the wallpaper are soft, too. And the scale of the patterns is similar. It's as if the tile and the wallpaper have the same value, in color and in texture. So they just blend into each other, in an easy, attractive way.

This is the room where you should get a medal for bravery—the William Morris–like wallpaper, the embroidered fabrics, the Japanese pillows, the floral carpet, the inlaid chest.

One reason why you can have all this pattern and texture throughout the house is because the palette is so consistent. Even this room is basically monochromatic. Everything is in shades of blue and cream. Blue is the common thread that holds it all together. It's the husband's favorite color. Blue is the color of the lake outside, and it winds through the house. It's the color of the backsplash in the kitchen and the tile in the master bath. It's in the spatterware that the wife collects.

And the marlin that hangs on a living room wall.

The wife caught that in Anguilla. She was out on a boat with her five boys and her husband, and she caught the biggest fish. She loves to travel, and she'll send me photos of things she wants to buy. When I'm traveling, I'll send her photos of things I'm looking at for her, so this is kind of a collaborative collection. It's a way of sharing our experiences. And then when you walk through the house and see all these things from all these exotic places, the memories come flooding back. The rooms have a touch of fantasy, and that can be welcome in everyday life.

PRODUCED BY DORETTA SPERDUTO
STYLED BY GREGORY BISSONNETTE

RIGHT: Hand-carved screens made by San Juan Ventures separate the living area from the dining area, which has a view of the lake on three sides. Curtains are Aegean Stripe by Cowtan & Tout. An Egyptian glass chandelier from Liza Sherman Antiques hangs above a table surrounded by a mix of chairs—a wood Charleston armchair by Richard Mulligan and Neptune chairs by Artistic Frame upholstered in Donghia's Angelina. Inlaid chest from Justmorocco.



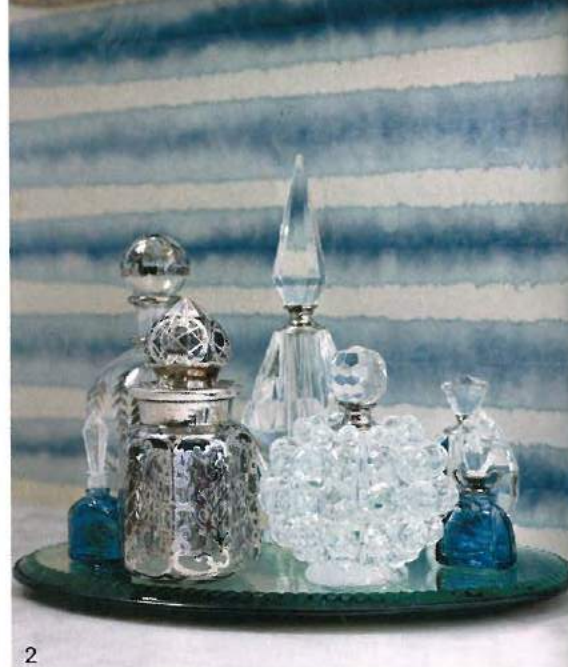


There's a strong Arts and Crafts flavor to the entrance hall, where Richard Mulligan's Townsend table anchors the space. Beehive pendant by Chameleon Fine Lighting. Rug by Watson Smith. **OPPOSITE:** The black-granite mantel in the library, made by Atelier Jouvence, offers a dramatic contrast to the tile, from Artistic Tile. Andrew sofa by Motif Designs in Lee Jofa's Abyssinia on the frame and Métaphores' Otterburn on the cushions. Ikat rug by Shiir Rugs.





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The blue-and-white palette is calm and refreshing. 1. In a guest bedroom, vintage nautical flags inspired the choice of striped bed linens from Pottery Barn. 2. Larsen's Horizons wallpaper resembles a watercolor in the powder room. 3. On a wall in the master bath, tumbled Blue Celeste tile by Ann Sacks sparkles in the light. The walnut cabinetry looks like furniture, not built-ins. 4. Pittsburgh Paints' Citadel Blue brightens the exterior of the house, designed by Alexander Bogaerts. 5. A chandelier wrapped in rope, by Joseph Konrad, adds a fanciful touch to the breakfast area. 6. The kitchen backsplash, from Urban Archaeology, is beautiful and practical. **OPPOSITE:** A stunning wall of Azul Cielo and Thassos marbles, cut with a water jet into a delicate Art Nouveau-like motif, is the focal point of the master bathroom. The pattern is Danse Azul by Artistic Tile. Etoile faucet and undermount tub by Waterworks encased in Calacatta marble.



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Open shelves for display break up the cabinetry in the kitchen. Blue mercury-glass pendants from Gallery L7 pick up the color theme. English sabre-leg counter stools from the Sterling Collection.

OPPOSITE: Two farmhouse sinks, from Rohl on the island and Kallista by the window, have an old-fashioned look. Faucets by Barber Wilsons.







Pattern, pattern everywhere—Persian Pear wallpaper by Joanna Rock envelops the master bedroom. The Simla sleigh bed from Robert Lighton is accented with throw pillows from Lynda O'Connor and Max & Company on top of embroidered pillow shams by Jed Johnson. Wisteria's Moorish chest doubles as a night table. Rug by Oscar Isberian. **OPPOSITE:** The firebox was built off the floor so you can watch the fire from the bed. Moroccan tile from Urban Archaeology. Chakki stool from Serena & Lily. FOR MORE DETAILS, SEE RESOURCES