

THE GOOD LIFE



GLOBAL STYLE

EVEN IF YOU ONLY GET TWO WEEKS' VACATION,
YOU CAN GIVE YOUR HOME A WORLDLY FEEL
THAT WILL REMIND YOU OF YOUR FAVORITE
DESTINATIONS ALL YEAR ROUND. **By Martin Amado**

SHOPPING FOR IMPORTS

Global style is all about incorporating objects from faraway places into a modern setting to create a space as unique as your cultural inspiration. And you don't need a passport to find pieces that have ethnic flair: Almost every major department store sells interesting accessories from exotic places. Some shops even specialize in imported goods, like furniture, rugs, blankets and candles, with many of these items made by hand. The key to sifting through everything that's out there is learning how to edit so that your home doesn't look like a bazaar. The decor should reflect the feeling that all your treasures (whether bought on vacation or at a local store) were collected through the years.

WALL COVERINGS

If you want to completely transform the environment, pick out your favorite colors from a piece of clothing or artwork that you brought back from vacation and paint the walls a similar hue. For example, hot pink, bright orange and cobalt blue are popular in Mexico and exude energy and warmth. Another way to beautify a boring accent wall is by covering it in an environmentally-friendly material reminiscent of an elegant cabana or tiki hut, such as grass cloth, bamboo, cane, raffia, burlap or jute.



THE DECOR SHOULD REFLECT THE FEELING THAT ALL YOUR TREASURES (WHETHER BOUGHT ON VACATION OR AT A LOCAL STORE) WERE COLLECTED THROUGH THE YEARS.

SIDE TABLE, Anthropologie, \$298, anthropologie.com

TRAVEL TREASURES

Decorative accessories are the best way to infuse your home with ethnic influences in a subtle way. This is where you can have fun using the mementos that you picked up during your travels: Handmade baskets, antique rugs, tribal masks, colorful pillows, wrought iron mirrors and unique pottery can add a hint of international style without being too excessive.



IRON WALL MIRROR, Wayfair, \$230, wayfair.com



Rich textiles can add a global feel to any room.

FURNITURE FINDS

Look for rich, dark wood furniture with carved details or colorful designs. These finds can easily be incorporated into your space by way of a chair, ottoman, coffee table or side table that can serve as a conversation piece. Natural textures like bamboo, rattan and wicker also reflect a global aesthetic that reminds us of many cultures. Feel free to mix these pieces to create a style all your own. For example, combine a woven sea-grass chair with a traditional upholstered sofa for a casual yet elegant setting. Just don't go overboard adding too much of the same texture and avoid matching pieces.

MIXING OLD AND NEW



MEXICAN COVERLETS, L'Aviva Home, \$169, lavivahome.com

Knowing how to incorporate ethnic accessories into a modern aesthetic can be a challenge. A great way to do this is to create a gallery wall using floating shelves as display surfaces for smaller sculptures, collectibles and ceramics. Vintage travel posters, photos and postcards can be placed inside matted frames and leaned up against the walls on ledges. You can also give a traditional item a contemporary spin by showcasing it in an unconventional way. For instance, you can transform a beautiful handmade blanket into a wall tapestry by hanging it from clip rings on a decorative curtain rod for instant wall art. Embellished saris, printed batiks and other ethnic fabrics can also be arranged inside shadow boxes that can serve as a focal point in your space.

MARTIN AMADO is a Cuban American interior designer, lifestyle expert, contributing writer and television expert on the subject of home decor.