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A world of possibilities

Decorating with confidence and sophistication can entail a global search for the right materials and objects. *By HELEN HAWKES*

If life is a journey, a curated home is one that tells a story of that voyage. For prestige home owners, that tale is not only multilayered but global.

“In a well-travelled person’s house, international materials or pieces show a level of confidence and sophistication that adds distinction to a home,” says Melbourne-based interior decorator Simone Haag.

“It’s a way of connecting with and interacting with the space in a more personal manner and, like art, is an extension of a collection.”

While many owners of luxury homes collect smaller items from abroad, Haag specialises in sourcing historic and modern furniture, rugs and art on international buying trips and curating an entire interior.

“I bring pieces out of Instagram and into the real world,” says the uber-stylist, who reveals that clients often budget seven figures for a project.

Haag recently returned from Milan where she bought unique pieces for a home on Spring Street in the Melbourne CBD.

Among the treasured items is a Hannes Peer coffee table that features a map of Venice laid out in tiles and now sits in the main living room area.

“The client honeymooned in Venice and this piece created a real, relevant moment,” Haag says.

“Because the coffee table isn’t a singular monolithic form, but a series of wedges, it can also shapeshift and interact differently with other pieces in the room.

“We also acquired KINK Fantastico Onyx table lamps designed by Peer that only got better once installed and illuminated.”

As owners invest more in location-scouting for projects, Haag also makes regular trips to Los Angeles where she finds mid-century modern collectable objects and art – including sculptures by Anthony Bianco.

In Paris, her favourite finds have included a tapestry from Kolkhoze, side tables by Jean-Frederic Bourdier and an Isac Elam Kaid console.

“Clients do need to have the appetite to invest in a piece sight-unseen, especially when it can be

Simone Haag decorated this Spring Street home in Melbourne’s CBD with furniture and objects sourced in Milan.



the price of a small car,” Haag says. “But it’s a contract of trust based on a curator’s portfolio.”

Of course, for those who prefer to do their own choosing, there are international collectors such as Patrizia Castorina and Ugo Cocchis of Castorina in Fitzroy, who import immaculately restored original 20th-century Italian designs.

Global flavour is, by definition, sourced from around the world, so if you have an overseas home, it may have pieces from a growing list of globally recognised makers close to this home.

Flack Studio, also in Fitzroy, will use work by some of its stable of creatives for the new Los Angeles home of music star Troye Sivan.

Haag says that, as the world becomes smaller, sourcing pieces internationally is what can truly set a residence apart.

“It’s where the magic happens.” 