



World Beat

INFLUENCES FROM AROUND THE GLOBE LEND
MULTIFACETED FLAVOR AND WARMTH TO THE
INVITING HAMPTONS HOME OF DESIGNER
DEBORAH HEIMOWITZ.

BY JEAN NAVAR, PHOTOGRAPHY BY COSTAS PICADAS

It's been said that a good house is never done. And if you were to ask designer Deborah Heimowitz whether she agrees with the adage, she'd likely tell you her home in Southampton is proof of it. Ever since she and her husband, Dan,

bought the historic Tudor-inspired brick home 13 years ago, its interiors have continually evolved with her changing lifestyle and tastes over time. "My home is always a work in progress," she says. "I frequently see new things, imagine them in my space and

then take them home to layer on additional dimensions or change things up by going in a new direction altogether."

When the Heimowitzes purchased the five-bedroom, 3,500-square-foot dwelling—which was once a carriage house on

the 200-acre estate of a mansion designed in 1911 by the well-known Long Island country house architect Grosvenor Atterbury—their two sons were still teenagers. In those early days, the family regularly spent time in the home as a summer getaway. CONTINUED...

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...CONTINUED But since the boys are now grown with lives of their own, Heimowitz now spends time off and on year-round living and working in the enchanting abode with her husband, with visits from their sons mostly only on holidays. So these days she has carte blanche to switch things up whenever the mood strikes.

Since she travels frequently, often drawing inspiration from objects and furnishings she picks up on her sojourns around the world, new elements are shuffled into the eclectic environs on a regular basis. And since she originally planned for the interiors to be "timeless with an ethnic vibe," layering in new accents, fabrics and furniture comes almost as naturally to her as breathing. Being her own client, she says, is easy because everything she introduces into her home is invariably a reflection of her personality.

Indeed, every room in the house offers a treasure trove of insight into the places Heimowitz has visited and the objects and artifacts she cherishes. In the entry, for example, an Indian bench from ABC Carpet is topped with Moroccan fabric, layered with pillows

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A classic contemporary sofa designed by Barbara Barry with a chair from Senegal, a Balinese table and an African chaise topped with a Kuba cloth.

from John Robshaw and set off with a studded mirror from Mecox. "I'm a big supporter of local stores," she notes. In the living room, on the other hand, a classic contemporary sofa designed by Barbara Barry contrasts with a chair from Senegal, a Balinese table and an African chaise topped with

a Kuba cloth traditionally used as tribal clothing. Among the newest additions to the diverse ensemble are some woven chairs made in Germany from Dedon beneath a fabric-covered pergola made of old telephone poles on the patio. "They're everyone's favorite chairs because they're beyond comfortable," says

Heimowitz, adding that the new pieces bring a welcome modern touch to the earthy ethnic influences that prevail throughout the home.

The motley mix of elements works, she says, because it feels like an extension of the home itself, which blends the organic qualities of textured old timber

beams and stone walls and floors with the crisp lines of new windows and doors. And like an evolving group of companions from every corner of the world, the varied furnishings and objects also collectively echo something of the open-minded spirit of the designer who brought them all together. ■