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PAMELA NOVAKOVICH, ASID

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Pamela Novakovich, ASID, draws from her experiences living abroad in places such as Europe, South Africa, South America and Mexico to ensure her clients receive the benefit of her knowledge and experience without compromising their own individual tastes. Novakovich received her design degree from Bennett College in Millbrook, N.Y., and then attended the University of Arizona for another year of study. She is the recipient of Sand Dollar and Aurora awards.

What will be the most surprising interior design trend in the coming season?

I try not to be influenced by industry trends. I contrast old and new to create interiors that feel unique and familiar. Trends should not influence your selections, as your interiors are the windows to your soul.

What is your own favorite style?

I'm not traditional and not quite contemporary. I don't like to be dominated by any one style, but I don't think there's a style that I'm not intrigued by. I believe in an eclectic mix. I love mixing antiques with more modern pieces.

What colors are coming into the home?

Earthy colors are here to stay, but ocean blues, coral hues and browns are popular right now. My clients are all asking for more color, and we therefore add a lot of color in the accent fabric, furniture pieces, artwork and florals.

Tell me about a recent project that excited you?

Toscana Piazza in Tuscany Reserve, a three-story

attached villa. Tuscan architectural touches brought the home to life. It combines earthy elements with more modern conveniences to create a comfortable home without forgetting the Tuscan's artistic heritage. There were brick walls in the dining rooms and family room, brick around the windows and a stained concrete floor in the foyer. The main floors were done in pillow-edged stone, the living room was wallpapered, the elevator exterior was in wood and custom-painted canvas, and the billiard room was totally surrounded by hand-painted landscapes of the Tuscan countryside.

If a couple has radically different decorating styles, how would you help them reconcile those?

I try to find their common ground and build from there. I believe that to design a space for someone, I need to get on a personal level with them. This allows me to create a space that is all about them and that will sustain the things they love best about their lives. I joke a lot with my clients and share personal experiences with them, which puts them at ease. Then the project also becomes more fun for everyone involved.

How do you add exotic elements to a home without making it too over-the-top?

Subtlety is my motto. Less-is-more is always a good rule of thumb. A small yet spectacular and unique piece can completely change a room all by itself. A piece that has history and a story behind it is always a focal point and in there lies my love for antiques and antique reproductions.

What is an object in your own home that you love for its design?

My cocktail table. It is half of one half of an old Mexican Cathedral door found in Cordoba, heavily carved and sits on four square, custom, aluminum legs. The door is antique, but the legs are more contemporary and I love the contrast.