

Near-Flung Influences

Making like Marco Polo around Manhattan.

IT should come as no surprise that Yasmina Kossmann finds inspiration in far-flung places. Ms. Kossmann, the United States residential design director for Tai Ping, an international carpet company, was born in Morocco and lived in Indonesia and France before moving to New York five years ago.

For Boheme, a new line of rugs that Tai Ping is releasing next month, which "comes from the idea of a global traveler," she said, she studied the vivid colors and patterns, tapestries and folkloric embroidery of Sardinia, Turkey and Africa, among other places.

Visiting countries in search of new design trends is "one of the best parts of my job," she said, but often it's not necessary to leave New York. "I think this is the best place for finding things from around the world," Ms. Kossmann said.

The most desirable things are readily available, she added, if you know where to look. "If you go to South Africa," she said, by way of example, "you won't see greater products than what you have here."

To prove her point, Ms. Kossmann began in SoHo, at Calypso Home, where she found pieces from India, Uzbekistan and Senegal, as well as a favorite product line from France: ceramic vessels by Valérie Casado, imprinted with lace patterns. "I love the irregularity of these pieces," she said. "Each one is different."

At ABC Carpet & Home, she picked out a collection of chairs for a similar reason. Made by Bokja, a Lebanese company, they were upholstered with vintage and contemporary textile scraps, so "every piece of furniture tells a unique story," she said, "because every piece of fabric comes from somewhere else."



TONY CENICOLA/THE NEW YORK TIMES

GOING GLOBAL Yasmina Kossmann shopping at Roberta Roller Rabbit, a boutique on the Upper East Side.

At Amaridian, a SoHo gallery specializing in African design, she admired the brightly colored Zenzulu Lace platters on the wall, which employ a utilitarian material — PVC-coated copper wire more commonly used for telephone lines — to create an artistic statement.

And on the Upper East Side, she stopped at Roberta Roller Rabbit, a boutique stuffed with textiles from India.

Struggling to narrow her choices, she finally settled on one of the store's reversible cotton quilts, which are block-printed by hand and "very bohemian," she said.

"When I come into a shop like this, I get very excited because of all the patterns," she said. "I feel like a kid in a candy store."

TIM McKEOUGH



Ceramic kaftan forms by Aksu Seyda, made in Turkey; from \$225 at the Store at the Museum of Arts and Design, (212) 299-7700, thestore.madmuseum.org.



Queen-size block-print cotton quilt; \$175 at Roberta Roller Rabbit, (212) 772-7200, robertarollerrabbit.com.

Ceramic vase by Valérie Casado; \$349 at Calypso, (212) 925-6200, calypsostbarth.com.

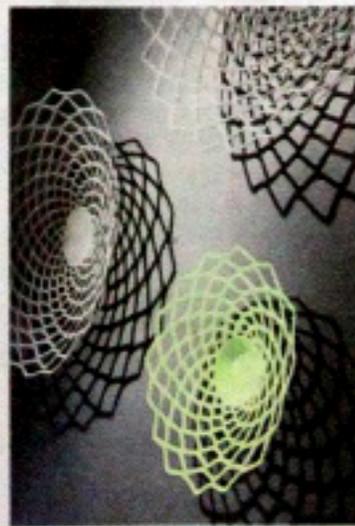


Bokja Collection chair; \$2,995 at ABC Carpet & Home, (212) 473-3000, abchome.com.



Goldfish teapot; \$190 at Shanghai Tang, (212) 888-0111, shanghaitang.com.

Maria Preciosa side tables; from \$4,100 at Espasso, (212) 219-0017, espasso.com.



Lace platters by Zenzulu; from \$260 at Amaridian, (917) 463-3719, amaridianusa.com.



Bayekou chair by Birsell + Seck; \$1,289 at Moroso, (800) 705-6863, morosousa.com.