

MY FAVOURITE ROOM

Deborah Moss's living room

In the run-up to next week's Interior Design Show, which kicks off at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre on Thursday, Deborah Moss will have little time for lounging. She and Edward Lam, her husband and partner in the design studio Moss & Lam, are busy mounting an installation for the show; called *Ursa Major*, it is built around the connections between nature and art. When they do take pause, in the 4,000-square-foot house they share in the city's west end with their two teenage daughters, Poppy and Charlotte, their favourite room to relax in is their living room, where natural elements prevail. The sunken room features objects and materials either inspired by or derived from the out of doors and boasts an unobstructed view of a stand of mature trees located just beyond the windows. "It is an adult room in the sense that there is no TV or computer, just an audio system," Moss says. "Sitting here when the sun's shining in is blissful."



COURTESY OF EDWARD LAM

1. THE BEAR SIDE TABLE

"The cast-plaster Walking Bear Side Table is our own design. Nature is our ultimate design source and here we were inspired by a classic Canadian symbol that we interpreted as a fractal sculptural object."

2. THE CHAIR

"This is a Diz Chair, made from imbuia wood by Brazilian designer Sergio Rodrigues, from [Toronto retailer] Avenue Road. It is super-comfortable and has a sculptural quality I could marvel at forever. It also works with some Danish teak pieces I have throughout the house that I inherited from my family."

3. THE CHINESE ARMOIRE

"This we hauled home from a trip to Shanghai 15 years ago. It provides great storage."

4. THE ANTLERS

"We ordered 600 elk and white-tail deer antlers for a ceiling-mobile project at the MGM Grand Detroit. These are the five that were left over. The antlers were all harvested as seasonal drop-offs, making it a palatable material for us to use."

5. THE COFFEE TABLE

"This is one of the first purchases we made when we were starving art students. It's from Quasi Modo Modern Furniture in Toronto."

6. THE COUCH

"This South Beach sectional was designed by Yabu Pushelberg. We sat on it at [designers George Yabu and Glenn Pushelberg's] Miami home and knew we wanted it. It is well-proportioned, which is what makes it comfortable. We had it upholstered in a wool boucle that is indestructible."

7. THE WALL HANGING

"The wall hanging is my own art piece, a version of which was commissioned by Holt Renfrew on Bloor Street [in Toronto]. It is made with hand-shredded Japanese papers. I have a bit of a paper obsession: the process behind it, its tactility, how it can be manipulated."

8. THE SCULPTURE

"This is a piece of science-class apparatus that we found in Hudson, New York."

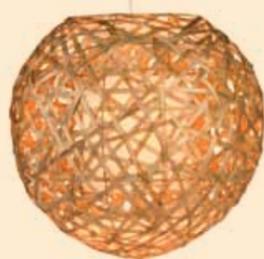
9. THE SIDE TABLE

"One of our own designs, this piece, called the Hex Table, is made of solid walnut. We source the wood from dead local standing trees, so it is harvested responsibly. The facets are cut according to the shape of each tree, so each table is unique." — DEIRDRE KELLY

THREE OF A KIND

SPHERES OF INFLUENCE

Add a soft, earthy glow to almost any space with a natural woven orb pendant light. — NANCY WON



Available in natural- and wenge-wood shades, Urban Barn's spherical Hanging Lamp is made from strips of woven bamboo to gently diffuse the light. \$129 at Urban Barn (www.urbanbarn.com).



Designed by Architect David Trubridge, the Coral Pendant is inspired by the repeating patterns of coral formations and made from sustainably grown Moso plywood. \$500 at Design Within Reach (www.dwr.com).



Barrymore's natural pendant lantern is made from coconut beads threaded onto delicate string around a central light shade. \$1,440 through www.barrymorefurniture.com.



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DESIGN: ASK DEE DEE TAYLOR EUSTACE

We have a narrow living room and are looking for an unimposing coffee table. Is Lucite done to death or is it still the best option for small spaces?"



The Lucite coffee table has been around for a long time and has come way down in price. So the answer is use it, accessorize it and love it. While, generally, living-area coffee tables add drama to a room, Lucite models have the same effect as an all-glass building that reflects, and amplifies, its surroundings. A Lucite table slips away, leaving the drama to the silver boxes or fabulous books and picture frames that you adorn it with (unless, that is, you spring for an Yves Klein table that has the built-in drama of a deep-blue or gold-leaf layer). Layers of accessories are actually better than a minimalist approach when it comes to making a small space grow. Just be careful about using the proper scale of furniture so that you can navigate the room around the table. A Lucite corner on a shin bone won't kill you, but it will leaving a lasting impression — and not of the sort you'd be hoping for.

Follow architect and interior designer Dee Dee Taylor Eustace on Twitter: @ddtaylordd. Have a design dilemma? E-mail style@globeandmail.com.