

The Courier-Mail

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home

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Global chic

Overseas travels inspire an exotic renovation



INDIA



Gleaming: the kitchen was given a complete makeover

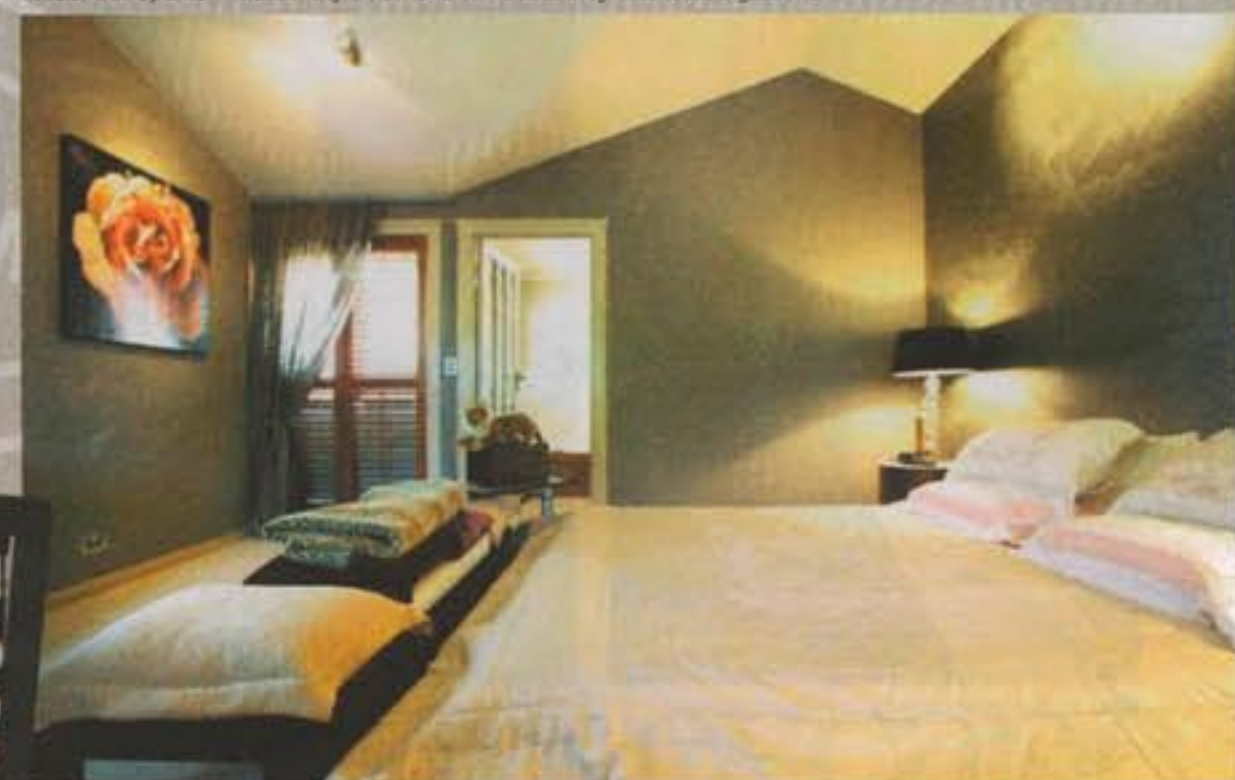
Pictures: Mark Cranitch



Neat: the Spanish mission-style home is surrounded by manicured gardens



Warmth: the casual living room, above; the library, far right, has an ordered appearance; wooden balustrades were changed to glass, below



Mood: selective lighting adds a soft glow to the bedroom



IMPORTING TIPS:

FOUND a piece of furniture overseas you want to bring home?

Dellarose recommends hiring an agent at the airport or shipping yard to get your goods released from customs quickly and smoothly.

"An agent will look after all the forms, declarations and release documents. There's a lot of red tape to get through," she says. Although it will cost an extra \$500-\$1000 for an agent, your goods will most likely be released within two to three days and it may save costs in the long run.

"If you end up having a battle with customs or haven't filled in the forms correctly you can end up incurring holding charges if your goods stay on the dock for more than five days."

And remember, if your goods are under 100 years old, you will have to pay GST.



TREASURE HUNTING:

Want to create an eclectic look on a budget? Try visiting these stores:

► Oxfam Community Aid Abroad Shop, stores located throughout Brisbane, www.oxfam.org.au

► Loot Homewares, stores located throughout the state, www.loot.com.au

► The Vast Interior, stores located throughout the state, www.vastinterior.com.au

► Samsara Furniture and Homewares, 21 Park Rd, Milton, 3876 4300

► Steel My Art, 622 Wickham St, Fortitude Valley, 3852 2535

Exotic cargo

THAILAND

An Ascot home is an inspiration for its owner, writes **Tonya Turner**



ACCORDING to interior designer Dellarose Swanson Baevski, a home should awaken the senses and provide solace for the spirit.

"A home should bring out your individual personality and the parts of yourself you keep hidden away," she says. "You don't have to follow modern trends. It's what speaks to your spirit that counts."

At her Spanish mission-style home in Ascot, on Brisbane's northside, Dellarose has created an exotic sanctuary shared with her husband Michael and daughter Lily, 9.

After buying the house about a year ago, Dellarose set to work on the interiors, bringing out the home's Mediterranean influence and her own eclectic tastes. Structurally, the house has remained the same.

Frequent trips to Morocco, India and Thailand show their impact on the home. The outdoor terrace, furnished with

pieces from her favourite store, Parterre in Fortitude Valley, is brought to life with rich and carefully blended colours and imported Moroccan lanterns. "I like travelling to places that have a strong sense of spirituality," Dellarose says.

Inside the house, walls are mostly painted in warm neutrals to highlight the

colourful furnishings and bright rugs.

Formal rooms are treated with a splash of colour on the walls. A stunning red light sculpture, imported from Israel, has its own special spot in the formal dining room, while a matching floor lamp adds character to the casual dining area.

Coming from a background of natural therapies including organic chemistry, aromatherapy, massage and yoga, Dellarose made the move into interior decorating after realising many of her clients were time-poor and needed help decorating their homes.

She believes home interiors have the same effect as natural therapies and can make you feel relaxed, happy and free.

"I've moved 52 times and lived in so many different environments including rentals," she says.

"Creating personal interiors is about finding textures, colours and fabrics that speak to the senses."

A private room at one end of the house provides a quiet space for daily reflection and yoga practice.

A 13th century goat skin depicting a picture of a dragon – Dellarose's symbol in Chinese astrology – resides in the room along with a 14th century Buddha and a statue of the Hindu deity Ganesha.

Other special rooms include a gym, temperature-controlled cellar and downstairs library.

Much thought and effort has gone into the house. The kitchen received a makeover, carpets were replaced, lighting was changed to illuminate artwork and shelving was built in to make space.

All up, the renovation cost about \$380,000.

Although she is a woman who seems very much in control, Dellarose's own outlook on life is more relaxed.

"Life is a journey – all we need to do is listen and follow," she says.

WANT MORE: Dellarose Swanson Baevski, Awaken Designs, 0414 387 835