

Trophy life

this page Hunting trophies sourced from a European lodge sit above a French leather sofa on the dramatic shop floor of Capocchi.

opposite page, top left Beautiful carving complements a vintage decanter set.

top right An Art Deco aeroplane exhibits the streamlined forms of another era.

below left Liz and Phillip Capocchi source many of their antiques on regular buying trips to Europe.



exposure

dramatic licence

The heartbeat of history – from furniture to curios – beats on in design store *Capocchi*.

Text **Annamarie Kiely** Photography **James Grant**

As the early 21st century cult of individuality reaches its creative peak, the interiors industry is meeting the moment with ever more outlets that give vent to the eccentric. Capocchi is one such retail venture that encourages the quirkier approach to home decoration.

The brainchild of industry veterans Liz and Phillip Capocchi – best known for their previous incarnation as Harlequin Antiques – this eponymous store has been cleverly carved into sets that stage “interior dramas” around collectables found on the couple’s quarterly buying trips to Europe.

Today a gentleman’s club, replete with a trophy wall of stag horns, billiard table, cut crystal decanters, a cabinet of natural history curios, and zebra-skinned sofas backs on to a modernist living-room set circa 1950s, which abuts a turn of the century library furnished with a grand partners’ desk that is dressed with globes of another time and another world order. But tomorrow’s vignettes might make neighbours of a >



Lacquered up

left A French lacquered, handpainted mahogany screen sits above an Art Deco rosewood buffet, and faux tortoiseshell lamps with mock croc shades.

below Part of the model fungus collection found in Tasmania.

bottom A coloured glass vase at Capocchi, where the quirky meets the traditional.



French provincial courtyard and an English kitchen lined with copper cake moulds. Whatever the theme, decorative schemes will take their cues from the objects found in parts rarely traversed by tourists.

Also slipped into the fusion of tradition and trend are paintings by contemporary artists, outdated kitchen curios, bakelite jewellery from 1930s Paris, even old pharmaceutical props – the most memorable example of which is a display of handmade fungus facsimiles, found in Tasmania, that was supposedly made to help the consumer of a toxic toadstool identify the species eaten to the chemist.

“People are no longer slaves to tradition,” asserts Phillip Capocchi. “They draw on the past for inspiration and buy objects to create an individual look. But,” he qualifies, “people are still passionate about owning a piece of history because it tells us who we are and how far humanity has travelled.” ♦

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