



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Also slipped into the fusion of tradition and trend are paintings by contemporary artists, outdated kitchen curios, bakelite jewellery from 1930s Paris, even old pharmaceutical props – the most memorable example of which is a display of handmade fungus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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