

HOME *of the* YEAR

Interior Design



Dramatic lighting, housed in the three woven lamps on the left side of the room, complements the Asian batik artwork. The table and chairs feature bamboo legs, a reeded table top and woven seats, blurring the line between old and new.

■ STORY BY ALAINA GONZALES
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JASON JUNG

CH&L SAT DOWN WITH MOLLY KEENAN-EBADI OF MK DESIGNS TO DISCUSS OUR HOME OF THE YEAR WINNER FOR INTERIOR DESIGN, a residence that melds Asian and African artifacts with contemporary style creating a peaceful retreat for the globetrotting homeowners. ▷



The homeowners, who are educated collectors, have delightful stories about each of their acquisitions, including trading tennis shoes for a Burmese tapestry. In the living space, wedding kimonos take center stage.

Colorado Homes & Lifestyles: *Did your clients have specific goals for the project?*

Molly Keenan-Ebadi: They had just purchased the home and the only thing they really wanted was to integrate their love of travel with the pieces they had acquired along the way.

CH&L: *How did you choose the color palette?*

MKE: The focus here was the art. The home was built in the early '90s and still had the same "builder's white" on the walls and art niches in nearly every room. We removed the niches, which limited the amount of space we could use to display artwork, and painted the walls and ceilings with colors that complemented the artwork. Khakis, browns, tans and olives worked with the bright oranges, golds, blues and chocolates.

CH&L: *Did you design around any pieces of art in particular?*

MKE: The main living space was designed around a set of wedding kimonos that hang in the stairway. Everything near the kimonos needed to be simple and elegant to not distract from their beauty.

CH&L: *What were the clients' lifestyle needs?*

MKE: The couple entertains on a regular basis. One of the problems we encountered with the flow of the great room, kitchen and dining room was the extension of a bar in between the rooms. The traffic pattern was blocked and the entry to the dining room was the size of a closet door. We removed the bar, replaced the floor and opened the entrance into the dining area. This helped create an easy transition between each room for entertaining.

CH&L: *Did you face any challenges in the remodel/design? How did you overcome these?*

MKE: The home did not have many problems. But it is always important to find a contractor/architect whom you and the client feel comfortable with. I worked with an amazing carpenter and his wife, who were not only

When the homeowners relax, they open the living room's doors, turn on soft music and listen to the Ponderosa pines sway in the breeze.



talented but forward thinking. We also used a great contractor and painter who worked together and finished each job to our satisfaction.

CH&L: *Discuss some details of the dining room.*

MKE: This room is one of my favorites. The floor lighting in particular really pulled the whole space together and maintained the contemporary look. Dramatic lighting in a dining room can set a tone, and this type of illumination complemented the Asian batik artwork we hung on the far wall. The table and chairs gave a Far East feeling with the bamboo legs, reeded tabletop and woven chairs, which makes you wonder if the pieces are old or new. □

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