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REAL ESTATE | HOMES

A Home Library That Welcomes Art and Travel

A Canadian family creates a room in their Toronto home that gives a nod to their years living abroad

Color, comfort and a setting for a prized art collection were priorities for this library. After a 10-year stint in Budapest, a Canadian businessman, his wife and their daughter returned to Toronto and purchased a four-bedroom, 4,650-square-foot home in the city's Forest Hills neighborhood.

To showcase their art collection, including many Canadian contemporary artists, and to accommodate the family's active lifestyle, interior designer Anne Hepfer of Anne Hepfer Designs Inc., focused on sophisticated, sculptural furniture and one-of-a-kind accessories, then layered patterns and textures that include lacquer, mixed metals, a stainless-steel desk base, and nickel hardware on cabinets and drawers.

The library was designed to accommodate business meetings, but also serves as a late-night retreat for the husband, where he creates photo books of the family's travels as gifts to his wife. One request: "They definitely wanted color," says Ms. Hepfer, who relocated from New York to Toronto 11 years ago after working for architect/designer Daniel Romualdez on the homes of Tory and Chris Burch. "We have such long winters, and the color, especially the mossy green, really warms up the space and brings nature into it."

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1. Sofa

The plush sofa, which Ms. Hepfer designed and had made by her Toronto workroom, is covered in moss-green velvet by Lee Jofa. It was inspired by the sofa in the apartment of Coco Chanel's 31 Rue Cambon Paris atelier and is detailed with large brass nailheads. Ms. Hepfer added pillows in a green-and-white, Greek-key cut velvet by Clarence House and an Hermès throw. Price: \$5,490, including labor and fabric

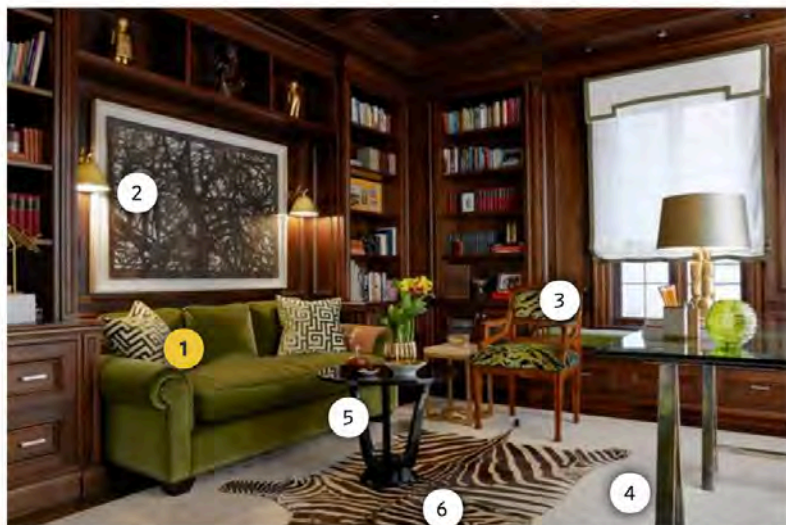


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2. Sconces

A pair of brass twig sconces with sage-green silk shades flank a framed work of hand-cut Japanese shoji paper by Toronto-based, Taipei-born artist Ed Pien. The green of the sconces echoes the deeper green of the sofa and the grosgrain ribbon trim on the white linen Roman shade, while the brass complements the gold Boulder desk lamp. All three lamps are by Vaughan Designs Inc. Price: \$1,144 for pair of sconces

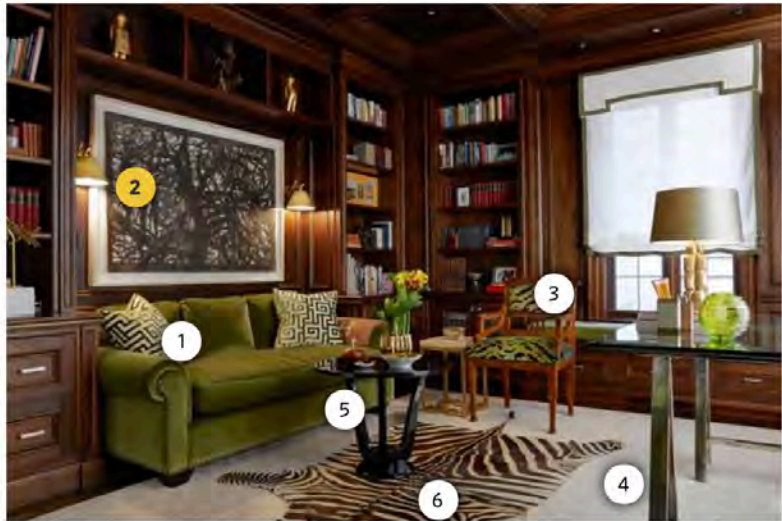


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3. Chair

The chair is an antique the couple bought in Budapest. Ms. Hepfer had it reupholstered in Scalamandré's Le Tigre cut-pile velvet to give it a modern twist and play off the zebra-skin rug. The fabric is an ombré type, Ms. Hepfer notes, referring to the color gradient that shades from light to dark. Price: \$1,784, including labor and fabric (\$1,308 a yard)

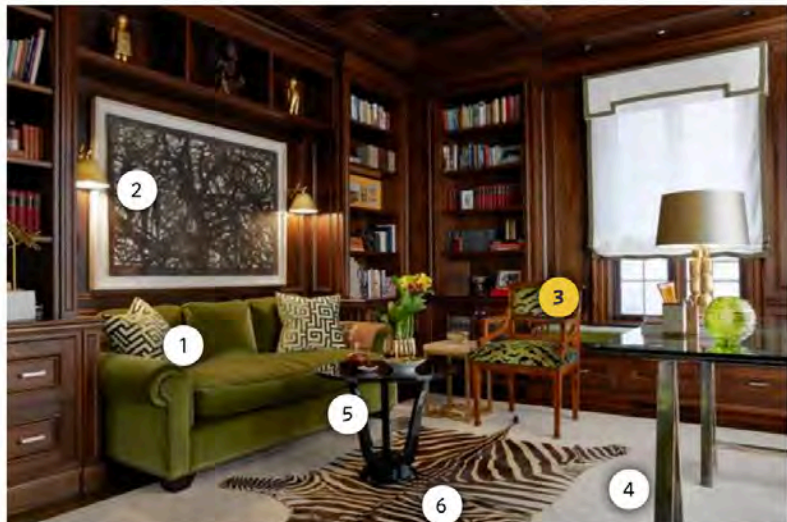


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4. Area Rug

A creamy, cut-pile wool area rug by Prestige Mills, with a subtle checkerboard pattern, offers a contrast to the dark walls and also sets off the furniture. Because the family includes a large Portuguese water dog, Ms. Hepfer opted for 100% wool because "it's the easiest to clean." Price: \$3,614

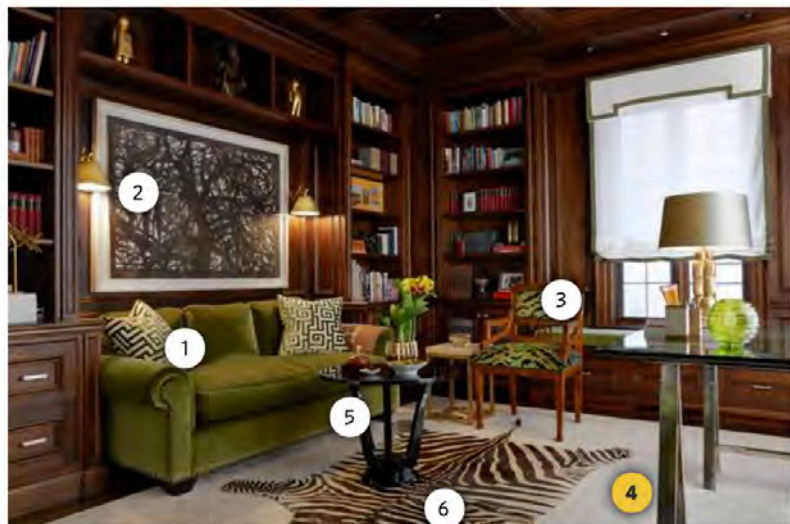


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5. Table

The black lacquered art deco guéridon table from Ribbehege & Azevedo is in the style of French furniture designer André Arbus. "Pulling in pieces [in the style] of the world's design legends," Ms. Hepfer says, "created a curated, global feel for a well-traveled couple's home." She chose a higher table that can serve as either a coffee or a side table. "For a very dark, masculine room, it has a lot of curved elements, which lend more of a feminine touch," Ms. Hepfer says of the table. Price: \$2,173

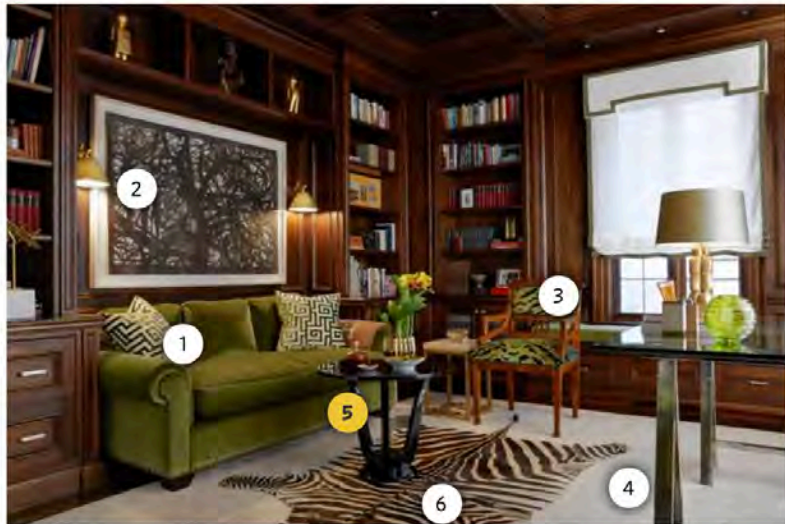


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6. Zebra-Skin Rug

Another allusion to the couple's global travels, the Burchell's zebra rug "adds a touch of exotic flair," says Ms. Hepfer, and is another element in the library's mix of textures. Price: \$2,135

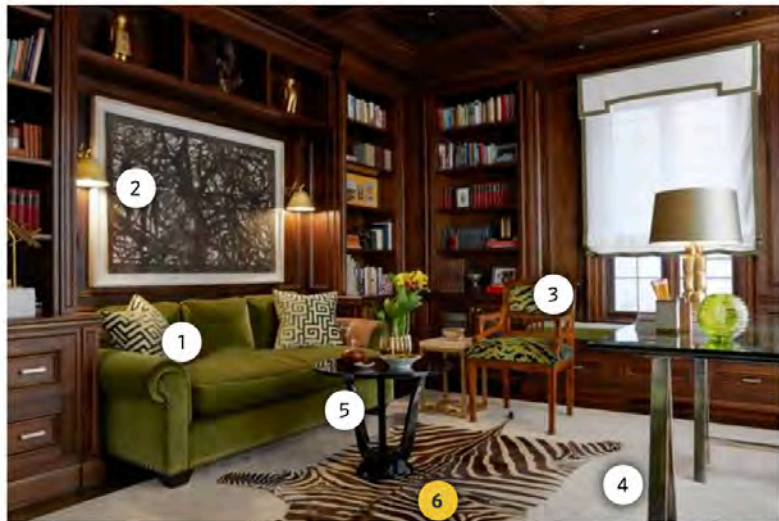


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