

Globe Trotting

DESIGNER ALY VELJI'S
WANDERLUST COLLECTION
FOR URBAN BARN TAKES
INSPIRATION FROM HIS TRAVELS.



INTREPID TRAVELLER

Aly Velji's Wanderlust collection reflects his passion to seek out and find unexpected gems in unexpected places.



FROM LEFT: Accent tables, from \$199; rug, from \$599; pillow, \$79; ottoman, \$499; urns, from \$199; bouclé armchair, \$999; floor candleholders, from \$199. All at Urban Barn.

Designer Aly Velji describes his collection with Urban Barn as a modern mashup of cultures. "I wanted to take global incidences and inject them into furniture design," says Aly. A coffee table and a side table with arched bases and rounded finials borrow from African crafts, while candleholders and urns take inspiration from classic Spanish architecture Aly saw in Mexico. "I played with a mix of design styles, patterns and textures, which has become a signature of my designs," he explains.

Q&A

Describe your inspiration for this collection.

AV: My inspiration has a lot to do with the places I've stayed –Tanzania, where I was born, Morocco, India, Vietnam, Palm Springs, Calif. and Mexico. That need to travel and create inspiring spaces, I wanted that to be the main focus for this collection.

What design elements from these places stood out to you?

AV: Everything from the architecture and interiors, how people live every day, streetscapes, the colour of the oceans to the sky in the morning and at dusk. It has a lot to do with the places I have stayed and seeing how people style their spaces, from a traditional Mexican home filled with terracotta tiles and patterns to the pink city of Jaipur with its rich and colourful way of life.

The collection has a lot of curved shapes. How did this fit into your design aesthetic?

AV: Curves really help to soften a space. I find interiors that are all square too minimal and boring. Curves add personality and I knew I wanted to inject this into the collection to make it well-rounded, no pun intended.

How do you see this collection fitting into people's spaces?

AV: People are designing their rooms a little differently now and I am here for it. There is special attention being paid to creating curated spaces that look like they have been designed over time and that comes with mixing different furniture styles and layering in pattern and texture. When introduced into a home, these Wanderlust pieces will bring that mix that I love to create in my interiors. I look forward to seeing how people incorporate this collection into their own style.

FROM LEFT: Rug, from \$599; Half Moon console table, \$999; round coffee table, \$999. All at Urban Barn.



Photography courtesy of Urban Barn

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