

get this look
for less

Naturalist's living room

Neutral finishes and furnishings put the focus on an array of accents gathered from the land. Here's how to display tokens from far-flung explorations for a cohesive and cozy look in your den By GILLIAN BARTH + Photograph by JOHN GRUEN

Every adventurer needs a welcoming place to come home to. Case in point: this light-filled living room decorated with heirlooms and keepsakes from the homeowners' journeys. To create it, designer Carol-Ann Speros started with an unfussy foundation of white slipcovered sofas, dove-gray walls, and a sand-hued sisal mat. She then layered on sentimental treasures, such as a beachcomber's bounty of coral; the couple's collection of polished stone bookends, eggs, and orbs; a vintage cowhide rug from Wyoming; and lush landscape paintings that were handed down from a relative. For help creating an affordable nature- and travel-inspired living area like this, read on.



traditional backdrop

A warm-toned Georgian-style mantel grounds this room full of discoveries. You can get the effect by dressing up a stock unit with a rich stain and a rosette. Mantel, \$599; homedepot.com. Stain, \$12; minwax.com. Rosette, \$25; osbornewood.com

earthy rugs

Layer a silky skin over woven sisal to play up the different textures. Cowhide, \$199; ikea.com. Sisal, \$185; overstock.com

PHOTOS: (STAIN AND ROSETTE, RUGS, "FRAMED LANDSCAPE," JARS AND CORAL, FERN, COFFEE TABLE AND BOOK, STONES) WENDELL T. WEBBER; (BOOKENDS) MICHAEL CHINI/TIME INC. DIGITAL STUDIO

framed landscape

Scour secondhand shops for an oil painting of pastoral scenes to evoke the spirit of 19th-century naturalists. We found this one for \$50 at online antiques emporium Ruby Lane (rubylane.com).



agate bookends

A rugged stone that's been split and shined, this geode pair is perfect for steadying field journals. \$43; thegemshop.com



pool chair

The homeowners' upholstered wood-frame chairs are pricey repros of heirlooms from the 1800s. This nearly identical perch costs half as much and is just as stunning. \$809; hickoryfurniture.com



specimen jars

Showcase finds from the beach or streambed in vintage blue Ball jars with screw-on zinc lids, \$35 for a set of three; antiquemystique.com. Faux coral, \$25; zgallerie.com



botanical touch

Pretty plants, like this Boston fern, in a rustic wire-frame urn, bring the outdoors in. Urn, \$22; save-on-crafts.com



polished stones

Adorn shelves with natural wonders, such as these carved onyx baubles. Sphere, \$40; phoenixorion.com. Eggs, \$6 each; amnshop.com

coffee-table display

A book of zoological illustrations offers an escape for armchair travelers. Use a horn-handled magnifier to mark pages. Table, \$29; walmart.com. Curiosities book, \$40; amazon.com. Magnifier, \$25; zgallerie.com



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