



**Paper Pushers**  
Design pros on wallcoverings they're dying to use **D5**

# OFF DUTY

**Anti-Netflix Apps**  
Streamers that focus on niches like horror or anime **D10**

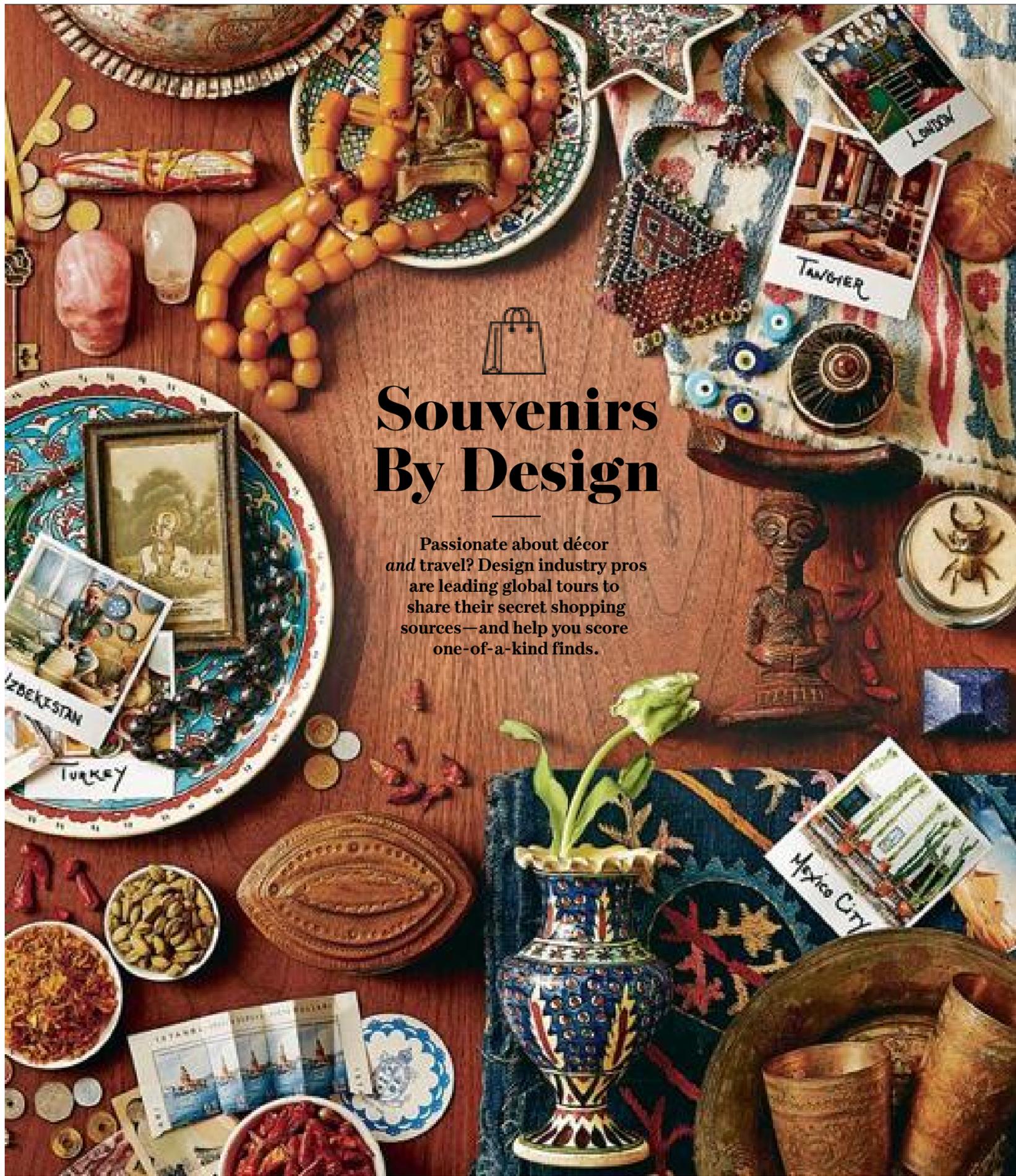


FASHION | FOOD | DESIGN | TRAVEL | GEAR

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

\*\*\*\*

Saturday/Sunday, February 4 - 5, 2023 | **D1**



## Souvenirs By Design

Passionate about décor and travel? Design industry pros are leading global tours to share their secret shopping sources—and help you score one-of-a-kind finds.

BY ANTONIA VAN DER MEER

**WHEN MELANIE** Burns of Oklahoma City first entered the Grand Bazaar in Istanbul, she was stunned by its sheer size and the pathways winding through its tented structures like a tangle of yarn. Though well-traveled and an old hand at hunting one-of-a-kind objets, she'd never experienced such an onslaught of potential riches. "The bazaar is intimidating," she said, "the size of about five football fields." She had expert allies, however: Clare Louise Frost and Elizabeth Hewitt of Tamam, a lifestyle brand and Manhattan store specializing in Turkish antiques and their own collections. The duo led Ms. Burns to a shop layered deep behind other shops. "It was no more than about 14 feet square, and stacked high with the most beautiful hand-woven vintage tapestries I've ever seen," Ms. Burns recalled. "I would never have tackled the place without these women. They are walk-

ing encyclopedias, they speak the language and when you shop with them, you don't overpay." Ms. Frost, who calls the bazaar "her second home," lived in Istanbul for nine years, and her business partners, Ms. Hewitt and Hüseyin Kaplan, still live there. Together they host trips to Turkey, capped at 14 participants, all eager to buy décor to take back home. Overseas shopping sprees like this are an increasingly popular new category of travel. Interior-design pros immerse travelers in a country's culture and guide them to fabulous finds, whether an ornate vintage camel bag from Turkey or a contemporary French sculpture. Indagare, a travel company in Manhattan, is seeing a growing market for overseas shopping trips. The 30 Insider Journey trips it ran in 2022, including seven design-centered jaunts, drew 540 travelers, twice as many as in 2019. Sicily, Japan and Mallorca are locales Indagare is eye-

ing for future design trips. Penta, a magazine that, like The Wall Street Journal, is published by Dow Jones & Co., has a partnership with Indagare to organize trips. "Covid taught us we need to go when we have the opportunity," said Grant K. Gibson, a San Francisco interior designer who himself has led eight trips to India and two to Morocco and is adding excursions to Egypt, Mexico and Turkey. Trips are as cultural as they are commercial. Before Mr. Gibson's group of 10 globetrotters start looking for linens or bargaining for bowls, they tour Jaipur by electric rickshaw and visit a textile museum. "I want them to understand the history and know where design ideas come from," he said. Cynthia Smith, a biotech exec from San Francisco who traveled with Mr. Gibson to Morocco, came home with pottery in a vibrant green glaze unique to Tamegroute, a village that edges the Sahara. "Everyone  
*Please turn to page D4*

Claudine Lewis, a guest with travel company Indagare, at the Jaipur City Palace in India.



### Inside



**FREE-WHEELIN' IN A THREE-WHEELER**  
Dan Neil takes a break from the boring safety of modern cars **D11**



**THINK STINK**  
The trendiest new scents smell like mice, gas or (aaah!) tar **D2**



**CLAMS! CLAMS! THANK YOU, MA'AM!**  
A chowder that eschews flour to let the bivalves shine **D9**



**MOUNTING CONCERNS**  
A school that teaches adventurers how to mountaineer safely in winter **D7**

F. MARTIN RAMIN/THE WALL STREET JOURNAL; STYLING BY SHARON RYAN/HALLEY RESOURCES

# DESIGN & DECORATING

## Tours With Décor in Mind

Continued from page D1

asks me about the vase, and I have a story to tell about Tamegroute pottery," she said. "It gives character to my house."

The packages don't come cheap—from around \$4,000 to \$18,000 (not including flights) depending on location and length—but offer you insider access. Designer Chloe Mackintosh of Boxwood Avenue Interiors in Reno, Nev., is leading her first trip this year to parts of Italy and France she knows well. One focus will be the weekend antique markets in L'isle-sur-la-Sorgue, in southeast France, but she'll also introduce guests to local artisans, including a fifth-generation ceramist. Her group will take a pottery-making class to understand the process behind the product.

Known as "the huntress" because of her many years buying and selling vintage furniture, Ariene C. Bethea says people began asking her to lead a trip so they could hunt alongside her. The owner of Dressing Rooms Interiors, a shop and design studio in Charlotte, N.C., teamed with TrovaTrip to create a journey to the Paris flea markets this May. With Ms. Bethea's input, the Portland, Ore., group-travel managers lined up accommodations, vendors, translators and tickets to museums. "I plan to help my guests shop, give them ideas and help them learn to tell stories in a space," said Ms. Bethea, known for her playful use of colors, bold patterns and culturally inspired designs.

Lodging on these guided forays offers design cred, too. Ms. Mackintosh has reserved an entire 16-room château in the French countryside for just 12 people. Tamam's Istanbul guests stay in a marble-floored hotel that was a late 19th-century Ottoman bank—with a vault that doubles as a wine cellar—and for excursions to Cappadocia, a region in central Turkey, they bed down in a traditional cave-like home carved out of soft rock.

On a trip to the South of France with Los Angeles-based designer Kathryn M. Ireland, visitors stay in Ms. Ireland's farmhouse near Toulouse. Her trademark fabrics and colorful Bohemian and English-country style are on display in every bedroom lamp shade and living room chair. "Guests shop my house, and then I point them in the right direction to buy similar things," she said. Ms. Ireland has been leading groups (a maximum of 10 people) for over a decade, taking them to neighbors' villas, antique markets and out-of-the-way bakeries and bee yards.

Abby Landers first visited Ms. Ireland's home as a high-school senior, traveling with her mother. Now five years out of college and living in Boston, she recently returned.

**'I would never have tackled the Grand Bazaar without these women. They speak the language, and when you shop with them, you don't overpay.'**

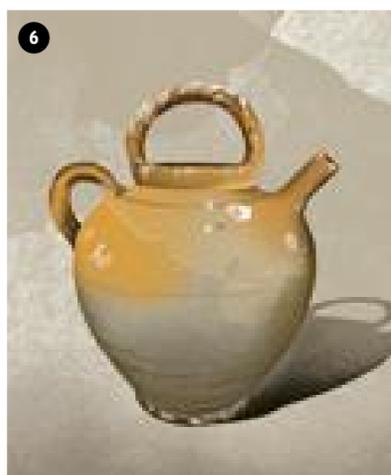
"Kathryn embraced us, and she has been a mentor for me ever since." Inspired by that first trip, Ms. Landers earned a master's degree in interior architecture, and her current boss is someone she met on that trip. "You're there for a week, and it's a whirlwind of meeting artists and artisans, all friends of Kathryn's."

Kirstan Barnett, a tech investor from Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., traveled to Tangier with Melissa Biggs Bradley, founder of Indagare. Ms. Barnett was particularly moved by dinner at the 300-year-old, white-washed, riad-style residence of Jamie Creel and Marco Scarani, two of the many designers she met at private events. The home was so richly layered and eclectic, she said, it inspired her to approach her own décor more bravely and reject the notion that a room must adhere to one style.

Some pros who organize such tours offer itinerary planning to folks who don't want to travel with strangers. Mr. Gibson recently created a program for a group of four going to Jaipur. Though he won't be joining them, he's chosen the lodging and booked the restaurants and the experiences.

Travelers laser-focused on in-the-know shopping minus the touring can hire Chicago-based Skin Interior Design in cities such as London, Paris and Milan. The company arranges excursions so clients are shown exactly what they want—whether French midcentury chairs or Venetian-glass chandeliers. "We have an education in art history and antiques, and we help find pieces that keep value," said Lauren Lozano Ziol, one of the founders. A recent two-day antique-furniture and art expedition in London cost \$10,000.

How to get all the booty home? Mr. Gibson advises guests to travel with at least one empty suitcase. Bulky items can be packed and airfreighted home using DHL or FedEx. (Most carriers will pick up at the hotel.) Some vendors ship direct to the States from their stores at reasonable rates. For those who travel with Tamam to Turkey, easy shipping—including having your purchases collected from the vendors—is one of the perks. Ms. Burns, who bought ceramics, four suzani bedspreads and six rugs, said Tamam handled shipping for about \$400. "Some of my things arrived before I even got home," she said.



## International Harvest | Souvenirs that guests collected on their design-focused journeys abroad

**1 | Clay sculpture** bought by Bostonian Abby Landers in the south of France. Local artist Claude Palmier, a friend of interior designer and host Kathryn M. Ireland, cooked lunch for the group. "My mom loved the statue and bought it for me," said Ms. Landers. "It will always remind me of that day and my mom's unique connection to it."

**2 | Rustic garden bench** of strawberry-tree wood, purchased by Jacqueline Williams of Manhattan on her trip to Morocco with travel company Indagare. She saw the designs while touring Rohuna, Italian horticulturalist Umberto Pasti's gardens south of Tangier, and ordered a pair from nearby

furniture-maker Najim Imran. "They are still wrapped, waiting for their new home in East Hampton, which is under construction."

**3 | Antique kilim camel bag** purchased in 2021 in Tangier by Kirstan Barnett of Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., while in Morocco with Indagare. "I didn't even know what it was when I first saw it. I use it over the armrest of my sofa to hold TV remotes. It looks fabulous, and it's completely unique."

**4 | Round wood box**, probably once used for spices, purchased in Jaipur by Dianne Maxon of Larkspur, Calif., while traveling with de-

signer Grant K. Gibson in India. "I bought it at a shop in our hotel."

**5 | Ceramic pitcher** in the rich pigments characteristic of Kütahya, in western Turkey, purchased by Melanie Burns of Oklahoma City. The early-20th-century piece, bought in Konya, was "in mint condition, and I had the expertise of Clare [Louise Frost] and Elizabeth [Hewitt] to determine it was an authentic antique Kütahya ceramic," said Ms. Burns of the co-founders of lifestyle and travel firm Tamam.

**6 | Antique terracotta pitcher** bought by Ms. Landers while in France with Ms. Ireland. "I use it in

my apartment as a vase."

**7 | New leather side table** custom-ordered in Marrakesh by Marina Purcell of Manhattan on a trip with Melissa Biggs Bradley of Indagare. "I saw the table in brown leather in a small shop but ordered a pair in turquoise leather for my new home in Florida. It was a bit of a gamble. They arrived a few months later and I love them to this day."

**8 | Antique wooden box**, likely used to hold jewelry, purchased in Jaipur by Ms. Maxon on the same trip with Mr. Gibson. "It's so beautifully carved I couldn't leave it behind," said Ms. Maxon.

## Design Jaunts On the Horizon

Five 2023 trips abroad devised and helmed by interiors experts imparting their insider info

**R**EADY TO shop your way around the world? Here are just some of the available packages that focus on home design. Prices are per person and generally include accommodations, meals and beverages, guided touring, activities and local transportation.

### Flea Market Foraging | May 4-10, 2023 |

The owner of Dressing Rooms Interiors, a vintage-home-furnishings boutique and design studio in Charlotte, N.C., Ariene C. Bethea takes travelers shopping the Paris vintage markets and art galleries and on visits to lesser-known museums such as the Museum Nationale Gustave Moreau. Also on the agenda: a foray to Versailles and its gardens, a tour of Montmartre street art and a tasting at the Museum of Wine. *From \$3,649, Trips.TrovaTrip.com*

### Turkey Club | May 17-26, 2023 |

Designer Clare Louise Frost, Tulu Textiles owner Elizabeth Hewitt and carpet dealer Hüseyin Kaplan teamed up to create Tamam, located in Manhattan and Istanbul and specializing in antique and vintage Turkish textiles, rugs and ceramics. Travelers tour Istanbul, Konya and Cappadocia, shopping the Grand Bazaar and the Spice Bazaar and visiting textiles and antique dealers. Plus: a hot-air-balloon ride and cooking class. Tamam in Turkey, *from \$3,600, Shop-Tamam.com*



Guests with Tamam co-founder Hüseyin Kaplan in his five-story shop in Konya, Turkey.

### English Town and Country | June 11-17, 2023 |

In London, South African interior designer Serena Crawford guides travelers through Kensington Palace's Sunken Garden (Diana's favorite) as well as shops such as heritage brand Fortnum & Mason. In the university town of Oxford, architectural highlights range from medieval to modern, and in the bucolic Cotswolds, guests visit private homes and gardens of renowned interior designers. London & the Cotswolds with Serena Crawford, *from \$15,350, Indagare.com*

### Joie de Vivre in France | Sept. 9-16, 2023 |

Los Angeles-based designer Kathryn M. Ireland takes you on private museum tours, flea market hunts and a trend-spotting tour of de-

sign fair Maison et Objet in Paris (ticket not included), followed by leisurely days in the French countryside at her farmhouse outside Toulouse. Paris & La Castellane, *from \$7,900, Paris hotel not included, KathrynIreland.com*

### India, Indeed | Dec. 11-18, 2023 |

San Francisco interior designer Grant K. Gibson shares his passion for India with a guided tour of Jaipur and Taj Mahal. Participants stay in a guesthouse once part of a maharajah's gardens; enjoy traditional Indian feasts; learn the history of block printing; rendezvous with rescue elephants; and conquer the chaotic bazaar, comprising flower and spice markets and rug and textiles vendors. Travel with Grant *from \$9,500, GrantKGibson.com*