



# ARTISTIC EXPERIENCES

WHEN IT COMES TO INCORPORATING ARTISTIC ELEMENTS INTO HOME DESIGN, FOR LIEVE SAETHER IT'S AN INTRINSIC COMPONENT OF EVERY SINGLE PROJECT.

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**LEAD CREATIVE AND FOUNDER OF TURNSTYLE Design,** Lieve moved to Texas 16 years ago from Virginia. “I came from a highly artistic background. I’ve always had an artistic track in my life,” she explained. Having grown up in Brussels, Belgium and traveling back and forth to the United States, sometimes every few months, imparted a worldly perspective. “It informed my aesthetic to be rather broad culturally and gave me a really strong awareness of all sorts

Ceiling and stair riser murals, hand-painted by Lieve Saether, create unique, highly personal and bespoke moments to ensure a distinctive signature. The entryway wallpaper is by Milton & King in “Blue Moon” and frames a Kuzco Lighting Vega Chandelier.

Milton & King “Chimera” wallpaper lines the wall behind the piano. This painterly wallcovering provides an instant point of interest, enabling the perfect stage for whatever is featured upon it; in this case, the family’s favorite restaurant experiences via menus collected over time.

In the reading room, a custom reupholstered sofa and ottoman are by Turnstyle Design. Brutalist in feel and striking in shape from all angles, this sofa remains always polished for adult and child-related gatherings.

Jaipur Living Rugs – Syntax Collection, were custom cut to shape and specifically chosen to feel as if part of a series, ensuring flow and connection between each space.

Artwork by Robert Pollard is displayed at the base of the stairway. Art is personal and meant to be developed over time, and this collection was chosen with care and future collecting in mind. Above is a Cloud Painting sourced from Etsy.



of thresholds — history, functions, aesthetics,” she added.

Her Austin-based firm specializes in bespoke residential projects that are a reflection of her clients’ aspirational lives through Lieve’s artistic lens. She describes the experience, for both her and the client, as a very cathartic process. “I view my role as a steward of someone’s life wishes. I’m there to help push them out of their comfort zone. I want to take them to artistic experiences — things they love but might not express, and do this in a highly qualitative, personal way that turns things on their head a little bit so that the client can stay curious in their own home.”

Lieve admits that not all clients are ready for this experience, at least not at first. There aren’t many interior designers that take their clients on a journey to truly discover their own inner workings, passions and hidden treasures, but the psychology of the home is seemingly as important to Lieve as the art of the home.







One of her latest projects is perfectly exemplary of Lieve's signature style. The home is owned by a busy family with two young boys, the elder of which collects vertebrae specimens. When working on a home with children, Lieve likes to involve them in the process. "I do this because I grew up feeling that if you participate in something then you understand it better. It will open up your thinking, and I love to instill that mindset in children. It's my personal passion to help people get to that point," she said.

In this case, she included the children in painting the risers that they custom built in the reading room to showcase their pieces. "When they came in on reveal day, they had such a sense of belonging, and the parents were relieved that we set them on a healthy, grounded path from that small little gesture. Sometimes, I'll have them help make runners or upholster chairs. That's always the highlight for me," said Lieve.

The reading room became Lieve's favorite in the house. It was one of those rooms that baffled the clients and almost always stood empty. Now, it's become a highly livable, multi-functional space where the family can enjoy a pizza

This functional kitchen is elevated, thanks to the floor-to-ceiling glass wall tile, which gives the space much needed texture and gravitas from a look and feel perspective. By taking something so tactile and beautifully made and placing it as the foundation of the shell not only provides great functionality, but makes the space feel very special. This tile is no longer available, but as an alternative, Lieve recommends the Modern Staggered Herringbone Glass Mosaic Tile at Mosaic Tile.

The wall paint, Behr "Teton Blue" N490-4, was used as a way to ground the environment, bringing depth and warmth to the room.

Materials of note include the Silestone Quartz Countertop in Pulsar, Wilderness in Gold wallpaper from the '70s, a Portnoy Faucet and gold dipped barstool by West Elm.

night, play games or watch someone play piano, either formally or informally.

The plant wall was another key driver for the room. Lieve worked with these clients previously and has known them for over a decade. "The client loves greenery. She's constantly giving cuttings or grabbing a cutting to try and see if something will grow, so the plant wall was designed and built for that purpose. It allows her to keep stacking and changing out plants. It's so much fun helping people be themselves and celebrate their personality and hobbies — these things that often get put away," shared Lieve.

As the client is also an avid cook, the kitchen space was the other room that was redesigned with that in mind. The wall where the vent hood is now was originally closed off, so Lieve opened this up with the intention of giving the client, not only space to create, but be creative. She also wanted to make it a space where family members were welcome, hence the radius-cut island with a bar where they can sit and participate as if it were a test kitchen.

The glass cabinets enable the client to showcase dishes and other beloved pieces, while the gilded mercury glass light fixtures offer a bit of glam and the floor-to-ceiling tile

work gives the room a stunning accent while simultaneously being very durable, "very wipeable."

"I wanted the kitchen to be light, airy and inviting, but also approachable. The blue is intended to ground the space and help transition into the family room, which is off to the side," said Lieve.

Finally, Lieve and her team brought this home back to life by addressing the entryway, or "cavernous, cold ceiling area," as the client describes it, by hand-painting a colorful mural that both draws the eye and blends the space.

As a big fan of modern art, Lieve drew inspiration from renowned American artist, Ellsworth Kelly. "I almost addressed it like the nave of a church, at least paying homage to it. It's a nice part of the architecture that was ultimately hidden until we could open it up through hand painting," noted Lieve.

Like every room that Lieve has a hand in, looking up is just as important as looking around. Sometimes art is hidden in the most unexpected places and the joy of finding it becomes all that more rewarding. ♦

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