Bohemian Born

Pile on the pattern and patina—the new maximalist look takes its cues from the grand bazaars of faraway lands

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Sorry, Mies van der Rohe, but today's style shapers aren't buying the whole "less is more" bit. Instead, architect Robert Venturi's credo, "less is a bore," resonates with a new generation of bohemians.

Marrying the romance of the gypsy life with jet-set sophistication, these modern-day nomads embrace their wanderlust, traveling the globe for inspiration—and a trunk-load of treasures to decorate their rooms. The movement has given birth to a maximalist trend that conjures images of exotic tents set against the backdrop of a romantic desert or other far-flung destination. Visions of layered carpets, animal prints, Oriental rugs, tapestries, and intriguing dishes capture the imagination as they make a signature style statement. What treasure will steal your heart? Now's the time to explore a world of possibilities.