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Design Awards





Clockwise from left: Vicente Wolf in front of his hand-dyed Amavapura silk. Photographs of Sri Lanka and Jordan he took on his travels, which inspired his new textile collection for Kravet. A selection from the 52 fabrics, in a range of textures, patterns, and colors. Wolf's photograph of a temple in Myanmar. See Resources.



Traveling Man

Designer Vicente Wolf looks to exotic locales and ancient cultures to inspire his new line of sumptuous fabrics

If ever anyone understood Henry Miller's declaration that a "destination is never a place, but a new way of seeing things," it would be interior designer Vicente Wolf. Travel has always been his muse. "In each country I learn new lessons," Wolf says. "I come back seeing different colors."

Those colors, captured in photographs taken by the Cuban-born designer on his journeys throughout the Middle East and Asia, are the source for his new fabric collection for Kravet. From images of Jordan, Wolf adapted the blacks, whites, and grays of the graphic horizontal stripes he found painted on the walls of a caravan stopover. Myanmar sparked

his use of bright tones from hot pink to livid tangerine. In Bhutan he discovered desert hues infused with a peach-colored light that made their way into his new textiles, while in Laos he found just the right soft earthen shades. Sri Lanka's lush greens and watery blues also informed his collection. In all, there are 52 fabrics with a wide-ranging palette and varied textures—from thick mohairs and lustrous velvets to iridescent gossamers and natural cork—enough to satisfy the most exotic tastes.

Wolf says his fabrics and designs aren't meant to evoke any specific locales as much as to convey moods. (The exception, perhaps, is a fuchsia ikat-style silk common to south Asia whose vibrancy is a departure for the designer.) Rather than replicating Bhutanese fabrics, for instance, Wolf imbued leathers and chenille with subtle colors that exude what he calls "the effect of candlelight on skin."

While the globe-trotting designer has the entire house in mind with his new line—from windows to upholstered furniture—he doesn't expect anyone to turn their living room into the visual equivalent of his frequent-flier miles. "I want to give consumers a total picture," Wolf says, "which they can then alter to suit their needs." **JORGE S. ARANGO**

