

JULY/AUGUST 2020 \$4.95

Bethesda

Life Disrupted

In the midst of a pandemic, local residents have tried to make the best of being stuck at home



BethesdaMagazine.com

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Prized POSSESSIONS

Local interior designers share their favorite personal pieces and spaces

BY AMANDA CHERRIN

A SOUVENIR FROM A once-in-a-lifetime vacation. The ultimate flea market find. A mantel brimming with family pictures, children's art and treasured heirlooms. Many of us have a belonging so beloved that we would go to great lengths to rescue it from harm, or a place in our home that tells a story so rich and meaningful that it helps to define our dwelling.

Interior designers spend their careers creating spaces where their clients can thrive, often scouring the globe for the perfect items, colors and textures to bring visions to life. But what treasures light up designers' own homes? We spoke with six local decorators to learn the stories behind their favorite personal pieces and places.

One of a Kind

"I love, love blue and white," says Bethesda-based interior designer Kelley Proxmire as she describes the many countries—France, China, the Netherlands, etc.—that incorporate the coveted color scheme into their designs, ranging from pottery to sculpture. Of the many blue and white pieces in her personal collection, Proxmire's favorite is an 18-inch-tall porcelain lion. Proxmire, who has worked as an interior designer for more than 20 years, purchased the lion for around \$1,500 in the 1990s at a now-shuttered Georgetown shop that was owned by famed local interior designer Antony Childs. Though the lion's origin is unclear, Proxmire speculates that it was created in Italy sometime during the 20th century. The lion, which has occupied many perches around her Italianate-style home in Bethesda, currently sits on a shelf in Proxmire's foyer. It is surrounded by decorative blue and white china plates—purchased from local antiques stores and during her travels—that match the plate the lion holds in a paw. "I love one-of-a-kinds," Proxmire says.