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*Passerine vintage rugs
Photos by Urban Chic Media*

DESIGNING A Healthy HOME

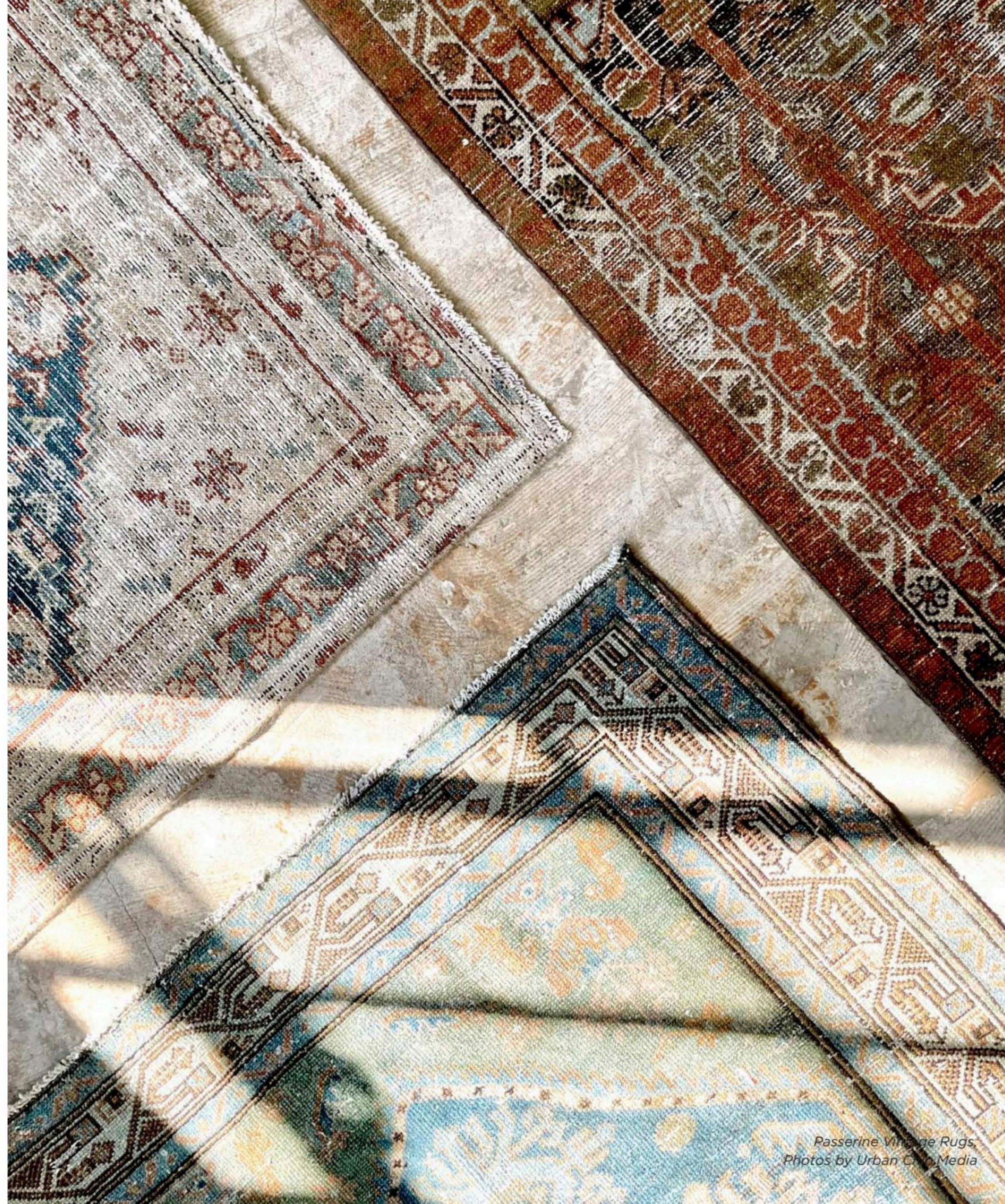
Experts share top tips for
making a home eco-friendly...
and above all, relaxing

By Sherry Moeller

When considering incorporating eco-friendly components into your home, experts say to start by looking at what you have that could be repurposed. Especially with supply chain delays, designers and homeowners are finding new uses for what's on hand. It might mean moving a chair to a different room for desk seating or rethinking how and where you shop. Supporting local, small businesses makes sense, too, with items often readily available. And if you need to add on or renovate, consider making spaces multipurpose, and above all relaxing for a calming effect.

From vintage rugs to multipurpose rooms to natural elements and more outdoor spaces, experts share some of their top tips for shopping smart, and designing healthy, in 2022.





VINTAGE RUGS

Georgia Hoyler, owner of Passerine, www.passerinehome.com, founded her online boutique shop that sources heirloom-quality handmade vintage rugs, when she began decorating her older row home in Washington, DC. She wanted the space to reflect her own aesthetic and values, while also avoiding seasonal design trends and prepared looks from big box stores.

"I wanted my home to feel distinctly mine," says Hoyler, "not identical to some show room. I didn't know initially what that would entail, so I started with some market research."

After months of obsessively studying design books, interior movie sets, and designer-curated Pinterest boards, it was a casual estate sale in New England that prompted her eureka moment. When she stumbled upon a beautiful, blue-and-brown Persian Shiraz scatter rug, her appreciation for vintage, one-of-a-kind textiles was ignited.

Over time, Hoyler developed a preference for these worn, softened color palettes often featured in West Coast designs, but she struggled to find them locally, so she began sourcing them on her own. With help from a local mentor and former Smithsonian lecturer—and after years of expensive trial-and-error—Hoyler developed relationships with a handful of overseas rug merchants from whom she now sources authentic oriental rugs of unquestionable quality.

Hoyler's passion for curating vintage rugs that are durable, stain resistant and beautiful has also made them more accessible to homeowners as well as local and national interior designers.



Tracy Morris Breakfast Room,
Photo by Greg Powers

MULTIPURPOSE ROOMS

Rooms that do double duty are in demand, including more informal dining spaces. "One thing we have been seeing recently is the desire to replace the large formal dining room with a more informal gathering space," says Tracy Morris of Tracy Morris Design, www.tracymorrisdesign.com.

As a result of being home for the last two years, people's dining rooms have been converted into home-work spaces, home offices, and exercise rooms. "That leaves the breakfast nook as the main eating/gathering space," adds Morris, who says her clients are realizing they need a bit more space in the kitchen area versus a large dining room.



Right: Annie Elliott Living Room, Photo by Angie Seckinger
 Above: Kelley Proxmire Family Room, Photo by Kip Dawkins

NATURAL MATERIALS, REPURPOSED PIECES

Natural materials have been in for a while, but they're more refined in 2022, says Annie Elliott of Annie Elliott Design, www.annieelliottdesign.com. She says to think wicker chairs, pencil rattan tables, caned cabinet doors, and peacock rattan detailing.

Kelley Proxmire of Kelley Proxmire, Inc., www.kelleyproxmire.com, recently designed a family room around furniture the owners inherited from a relative's home in Palm Beach. She created a refined space with repurposed elements in her signature blue and green colors.





GTM Architects Porch,
Photo by Diego Valdez

OUTDOOR SPACES

Homeowners are continuing to move outside, not only to enjoy fresh air, but also to enjoy existing and new outdoor living areas. "Outdoor entertaining spaces will remain important features for homeowners," says Jessica Wachtel of GTM Architects, www.gtmarchitects.com. Fire pits, outdoor heaters and large outdoor dining areas are all desirable features. "The ability to open up your indoor entertaining space for maximum air flow and transition between indoor/outdoor space is also great," she adds.

"We are continuing to see a push for even larger and more elaborate outdoor spaces," adds Luke Olson, also of GTM Architects. He's recently incorporated putting greens to outside areas and continues to see pools in high demand.