

MY PLACE: Expressed through Marrakech

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Interior designer Michelle Fieldsend at her Ashburton home.

COLLECT things you love rather than buying for the sake of decorating.

That's the advice of Ashburton interior designer Michelle Fieldsend.

Take a walk through her family home and you are warmly greeted with a wonderful mix of eclectic, colourful decor added over the years. And each piece has a story to tell.

Take the family room coffee table and its history of transformations.

First it was her husband's desk, then it was painted red for her daughter. Another paint makeover, drawers removed and its legs chopped off, it's now a nifty coffee table.

"The coffee table has certainly had a few transformations; the family won't let me get rid of it," Fieldsend said.

"All my pieces mean something to me. Some furniture is made by family, some bits are from other houses (we have lived in) that I had to make fit in.

"I think it's better to be haphazard with these things."

Starting out as a nurse, Fieldsend started her interior design business, A Fresh Touch, 10 years ago after "moving a lot".

Her travels to Marrakech have influenced her style, from a Moroccan ornate mirror in a bedroom to her mother's vintage leather purse in the lounge room.

Moroccan sandals, which were prettier than comfortable, grace the fireplace.

Bursts of orange and red are constant in each room.

“It’s important to have a theme or colour thread through your home,” she said. “It’s nice to have things out on display that you love rather than away in a cupboard.

“I’m definitely not a minimalist.”