my favourite things

Contemporary deco cooler and side screen and cabinet in the master bedroom are enhanced with prints for his and handmade lamps from Hare Orlando.

A treasure from the 20s: this coffee table is adorned with 2 million year old fossil stone

Husband and wife design team Carlo Gambuzza and Lorraine D'Oliveira

Grand scale Urn overlaid with gold

Moody oil on canvas by Iva Delagrie artist Gerard Burns

Hemingway's balcony in Key West Home painted by Lester Wain

Magnificent antique Burmese carved wooden angels set with pearls

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We all have our own favourite interior treasures. Some are tiny but can pack the biggest punch while others occupy much a large space in our home that they are overwhelmingly part of us. Whether old or new, favourite things come in all shapes and sizes and have one thing in common – their owners consider them to be seriously special and can rarely say goodbye.

We asked husband and wife interior design team, Lorraine D'Oliveira and Carlo Gambuzza, founder of Scotland's thriving interior businesses XS Interiors and XS Showhouse Furniture, what were the must haves in their home.

Having had an interior design and furniture importing business for over a decade I have had some fabulous pieces come my way" said Lorraine "although many of the favourites go way back in time. It's not so much a value thing but rather what never ceases to inspire us or give us joy year after year, that makes something an interior favourite with us." Here are a few of our all time favourite pieces, pieces that Carlo and I would be happy to have forever.

'In many ways cherished pieces are like old friends. there is a comfortability with the relationship we have with them.'

Lorraine and Carlo have assembled some fabulous items from their magnificent home, although with so many beautiful and eclectic pieces surrounding them they must have had a very difficult time narrowing it down to share us just a few.

"I've always liked oversized pieces, pieces that make a statement", commented Carlo. "Grandeur exists items from a major part of Lorraine and my interior design career. I could never have as big as a garden, they create the structure, the skeleton from which to build."

The grand scale urn, seen here, is made from porcelain and crafted in the Far East. Overlaid with gold it features a subserviently contemporary artisan random pattern. "I really like this piece", said Lorraine. "It forms part of a larger collection that we have. The other pieces in this collection are in different parts of the house and coherently weaves a thread from room to room. Although this piece is really rather opulent and dramatic out, it's colouring is soft white and gold and is actually quite neutral. This allows us to move it into other areas from time to time."

'We treasured miles away Sylvester Stallone Eye Brow fluted stone tables in his home in Miami'

This large rhomboid scale coffee table is also a favourite of the couple and has a matching side table and consoles. "We were lucky to stumble across these", said Carlo. "The table tops are inlaid with two million year old fossil stone cut from the sea bed", added Lorraine, "and the intricate carved swing surrounds are fabulously over the top. Six thousand miles away Sylvester Stallone had the same limited edition fossil inlaid collection in his home in Miami. There is something very Flintstein-esque the way they look, and we like their grandeur."

Sitting on either side of a huge contemporary oil on canvases from the early 60's, and perched on simple mirrored plinths from Belgium are two beautiful figures.

"My antique carved wooden, painted and bejewelled Burmese angels have been with me a very long time, and they are a true favourite," said Lorraine. "Having the pair is great because I usually like using them to flank a piece of art or mirror to create well drama and symmetry. They are so beautiful to look at and give me a feeling of great peace and protection. Of all the things that come and go in our home and in our interior business I think the Angels are my favourite."

'Whenever we dined there we always chose the table that the art was hung above. It felt like eating at home'

As lovers of art and back in the late 80's Lorraine and her husband Carlo became very fond of Glasgow School Of Art artist, Lester Wain. For years Lester had a high profile and much loved gallery with her brother Michael on Gibson Street, in Glasgow's West End. The pair used to have special get-togethers for friends and collectors and time to witness Lester's magic on canvases got a hold of Lorraine and Carlo's attention. "We fell in love with Lester's work and collected her paintings for years, having many pieces commissioned by her. Our favourite is the vibrant oil painting of Hemmingway's balcony in Key West, Florida" said Lorraine.

"A long time ago there was a great restaurant in Newtown called Clooneys that Iranian Richardson a then Olympic medal chef owned and ran with his partner Hugh. Carlo and I loved that place and its decor was way ahead of its time. It was a very minimalist environment – crisp clean and contemporary. Everything was understated yet magnificent, with fabulous art featured throughout. Lester had some superb pieces hung there including a very small version of our painting of Hemmingway's balcony. Whenever we dined there we always chose the table that the art was hung above. It felt like eating at home", she laughed.

Lorraine and Carlo also rank one of their large Gerard Burns paintings, situated in their hallway, as one of their favourites. "It's just so 'Glasgow'" Carlo commented. "the traditional sandstone buildings, the moody skies, the rain (Carlo passes) the rain, the umbrellas, the rain"

'Great pieces are like great people, they leave around'

Standing next to the Lester Wain painting you can see an unusual collection of modern chair lacquered furniture and accessories. This elegant and unusual Kaplum screen has beautiful detail in tones of russet and reds with hints of metallic. Its style has a flavour of contemporary deco and it is complemented there with a console table and stunning porcelain changer on a stand. This collection formed a part of Lorraine and Carlo's dining room for many years, but recently was moved to create a bedroom setting. The result was fantastic. "Great pieces are like great people" said Lorraine, "they don't stand still". This collection is a great favourite of ours because it is so relaxed and neutral yet unusual. I also really like its versatility and the flexibility in which it can be used."

It isn't exactly an complex affair and that was but you can see the ability and creative talent this discerning couple have in putting together interiors. They have worked together for builders and developers for years designing and supplying showhouse furniture. In addition their companies supply the TV and Hifi industries with furniture for their sets, which I imagine is where their sense of drama comes. Carlo and Lorraine are passionate about interiors and also have generations of private clients on their books, many listed in the "who's who".

They private design studio in Bearsden is a hub to the most incredible collections of modern contemporary and transitional furniture you could imagine and all available to purchase on line. Visit www.xsinteriors.com or www.xsshowhousefurniture.com for more information or telephone 0141 942 2014 to book an appointment at the design studio.

From an interior point of view, change is something that we all really enjoy and aspire to. However, sometime some things are so very special to us that they simply have to stay. What do you cherish in your home that wild horses couldn't tear you away from? What are your most cherished interior possessions?

Jodi MacLean takes a peek through the keyhole at the home of Scotland's leading lights in interior design.