

# THE RADAR HOME

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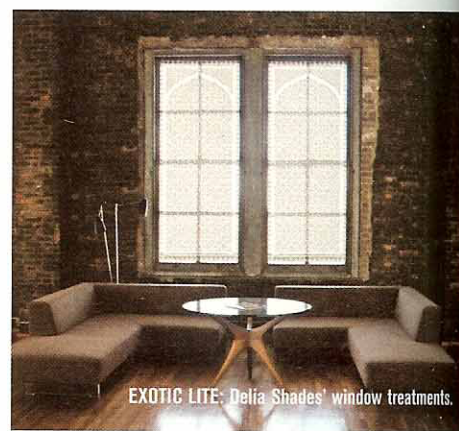


**DASH OF SPICE** Damon Dash's Beverly Hills bedroom, designed by Martyn Lawrence-Bullard.

## MOOR-ROCKIN' CHIC *Designers stage an extreme makeunder of L.A.'s most abused motif*

### NEO MOROCCAN 'TUDE

For tapestry addicts and tiled courtyard fanatics, Aladdin's Cave isn't just an Arab folk tale. It's often inspiration for very literal design—and an L.A. trend that just won't die. Even Victoria Beckham is reportedly doing up her Beverly Hills digs in major Marrakesh style. But a new breed of L.A. designer is taking the over-the-top motif into more understated terrain, with results like Damon Dash's home (pictured above), where designer Martyn Lawrence-Bullard created a Moorish vibe that doesn't have visitors simply seeing red. "Everything about Moroccan is getting subtler," says Suad Cano, owner of Berbere World Imports, which counts designers like Kathryn Ireland and David Dalton as clients. "We don't do ornate stuff anymore. Designers want cleaner looking, less intricate pieces, like our carved doors that we now white-wash to look more updated." The look gets even more of an update from companies like Mindspring, whose aluminum Marrakesh wall and lighting panels take the trend to über minimalist turf. Even West Elm has tone-on-tone Moorish Roman shades that are the essence of sleek chic. Call it a design trend that offers a pinch of Eastern spice, not an overdose.



**EXOTIC LITE** Delia Shades' window treatments.

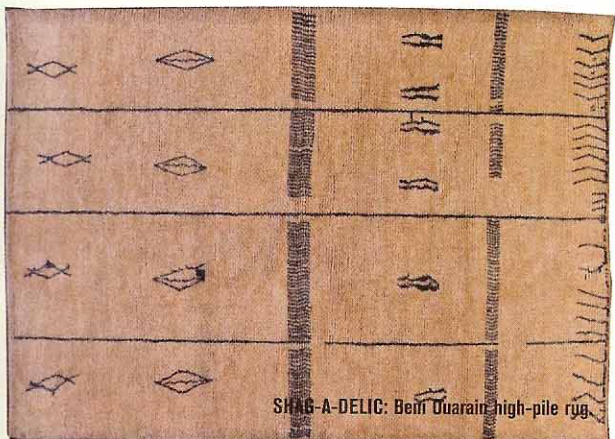
### FOUR DESIGNERS DO LESS WITH MOOR

**MARTYN LAWRENCE-BULLARD** He recently completed Palm Springs' Colony Palms Hotel in a relaxed Moorish style: "Use Moroccan pieces sparingly, because otherwise it will end up looking way too over-the-top. You want just a touch of the exotic." His pick: American Rag's fringed and tasseled towels.

**SUZANNE RHEINSTEIN** No theme rooms, please. "Think accents, like a table or lanterns painted peacock blue under a loggia." Her pick: Brown and white diamond-patterned Moroccan rugs—old or new.

**JACKIE TERRELL** Keep it mixed up. "I love Moroccan textiles and rugs in interiors, but styled in a juxtaposed way." Her pick: Delia Shades' arched Moorish shades (picture above).

**GARY GIBSON** Control the color. "Your home isn't a movie set, so don't do too much pattern and all rich reds and oranges. Bring in some browns, maybe a touch of purple, but don't be obvious." His pick: Gibson Studio's silk velvet Moroccan ottoman and Buick Sofa, both of which have a touch of Moroccan flair, without overkill. —Wendy Wong



**SHAG-A-DELIC** Beni Ouarain high-pile rug.

### CARPET RIDE

Both a people and a place, Beni Ouarain is known for its superlative wool and high-pile weavings that double as cozy, family-size blankets and shields against the forces of evil. Modernists have since thought to turn these heirloom Berber blankets—said to possess metaphysical powers—into floor coverings. Early fans included everyone from Charles and Ray Eames to Frank Lloyd Wright—all drawn to Beni Ouarain's earthy, asymmetrical squiggles and undyed wool. In recent times, renewed interest in modernism has landed these Moroccan textiles in spots like Cindy Crawford's Michael S. Smith-appointed Malibu beachhouse and Jonathan Adler's Gene Autry Suite at the Parker Palm Springs. Vintage pieces tend to be shaggier and looser, but the latest twists are the plusher, made-to-order interpretations (from \$12,000) by companies such as F.J. Hakimian and Mansour Modern (pictured). Whether old or new, look for meandering lines, diamond patterns and odd shapes that dissolve into nothingness. Metaphysical powers not necessarily included. —Trish Reynales