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Montreal Home asked designer Tracey MacKenzie to show us how to select items for the home that would contribute to a “neuro” environment. As a designer who is steeped in the emerging field of neuroscience for architecture and design (see her story on page XXX), Tracey believes that everything we select for our interiors should feed the senses to give us a sense of safety and comfort. Her two venues for our shopping spree were Maison Corbeil at 1215 Cremazie Blvd. W. and Turquoise Décor at 4461 St. Laurent Blvd.



◀ **FLOOR LAMP**

Available at Maison Corbeil

Price: \$1,089.99 each

These elegant vertical lamps caught Tracey’s eye as we walked into Maison Corbeil. They are made in France by Nouvelle Dix Heures Dix and the shade is white nylon, stretched over a metal frame. “I like the shape because it’s rounded and has no harsh edges,” Tracey says. “Normally, we associate such tall lamps with an industrial look because of their size and shape. But the material is pleated and draped so these lamps are soft geometry at its best.”

BUDDHA AND CONSOLE ▶

Available at Turquoise Décor

Price: Buddha \$350; red lacquered console \$550

Tracey is inspired by images of Buddha in her own home. So she was drawn to this stone Buddha from Bali, which she discovered at Turquoise Décor, a store that specializes in imports from Asia and north Africa. It sits atop a red lacquered elm wood console from China. “Buddha helps me to feel calm when life is chaotic,” Tracey says. “Some people put stone Buddhas in their gardens to add a spiritual element, especially if they’re creating a meditation garden.”

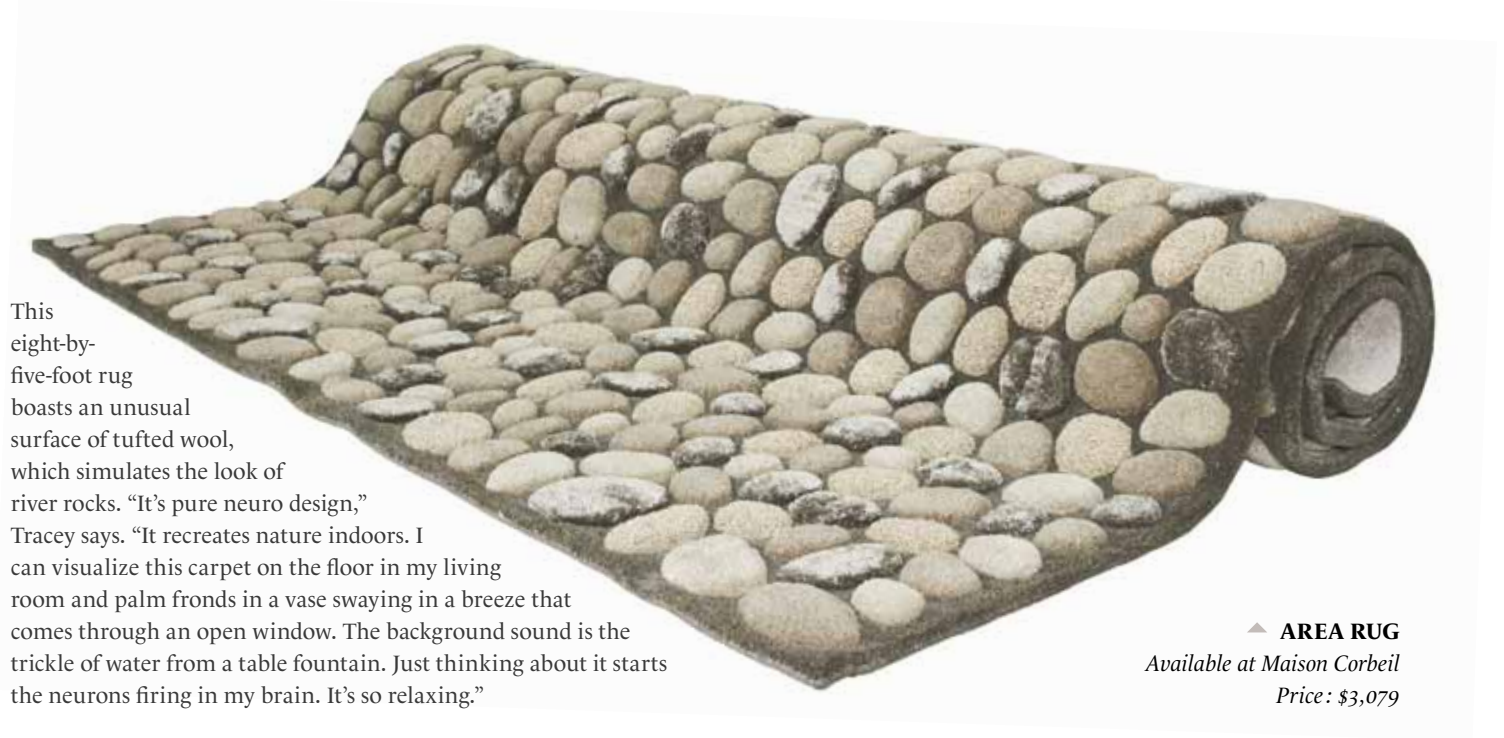


PAPER BALLS ▶

Available at Maison Corbeil - Price: Three-inch-diameter ball \$5.99; six-inch-diameter ball \$14.99

These paper balls, made in Montreal by Casansa Design, are reminiscent of balls of yarn and are ornamental. “They make an unusual centrepiece,” Tracey says. “Neuro design is about having things that make you feel good in your decor. I like these balls because they remind me of topographical maps. They make me feel grounded.” »





This eight-by-five-foot rug boasts an unusual surface of tufted wool, which simulates the look of river rocks. “It’s pure neuro design,” Tracey says. “It recreates nature indoors. I can visualize this carpet on the floor in my living room and palm fronds in a vase swaying in a breeze that comes through an open window. The background sound is the trickle of water from a table fountain. Just thinking about it starts the neurons firing in my brain. It’s so relaxing.”

▲ **AREA RUG**
Available at *Maison Corbeil*
Price: \$3,079



◀ **ARMOIRE**
Available at *Turquoise Décor*
Price: \$1,795

This restored lacquered armoire is more than 100 years old. Made of elm wood, it hails from the south of China. “The pictograms on the doors correspond to the region from which the armoire originates,” Tracey says.

CHAISE ▶
Available at *Maison Corbeil*
Price: Chaise \$4,656; cushion \$402

The concept of unity comes to mind in this double chaise by Ligne Roset. “One melds into the other, like yin and yang,” Tracey says. Called Confluences, the pieces are designed to fit with several other modules in a mix-and-match way. “They are soft to the touch, a simple design and comfortable to sit on.” ♠

