

SHOPPING WITH
GHISLAINE VIÑAS

In a Turquoise Mood

The color radiates serenity and energy.



RUBY WASHINGTON/THE NEW YORK TIMES

A LITTLE BLUE The interior designer Ghislaine Viñas inspects a vintage turquoise ceramic lamp (\$2,250) at the End of History in the West Village.

IF there is one color that deserves extra attention in 2010, it is turquoise — at least according to Pantone. The company has declared it the color of the year, citing its “serene” yet “invigorating” qualities, and Ghislaine Viñas, for one, couldn’t be happier with the choice. Ms. Viñas, a Manhattan interior designer known for her bold use of color, thinks of turquoise as “cool and clean, like a beautiful ocean,” she said. “Last year, we had such a horrific year. Maybe this will help start 2010 on a fresh note.”

Ms. Viñas, the recipient of numerous awards, including this year’s Benjamin Moore HUE Award for color in residential interiors, often employs turquoise to dazzling effect. For a 2007 show house in Amagansett, N.Y., she used it on the walls of a bedroom; in her own TriBeCa loft, she filled glass decanters with mouthwash to add the color to her bathroom in an inexpensive, unexpected way.

Color is “the first thing I think about when I start designing a room,” she said, because it sets the mood. And while many people are scared of bright colors, she noted, turquoise is less intimidating — maybe because “the sky is blue and grass is green” — so she doesn’t hesitate to use it.

Shopping recently for turquoise accents to brighten up a room, Ms. Viñas began at the End of History, a West Village store specializing in midcentury modern glass and ceramics. Perusing shelves organized by color, she was drawn to a 1960s ceramic head made by Bitossi, an Italian company, which she thought would make an unusual and eye-catching addition to an interior.

At Jonathan Adler in SoHo, she liked the glass Pill Carafe — a giant capsule-like container with a white base and a turquoise cup on top — and observed that it would be a good way to add turquoise to a bathroom without the mouthwash.

Down the block, Ms. Viñas stopped in at Kartell, a store she described as “candy land” because of its vibrant array of colorful objects. She was particularly taken with the transparent polycarbonate Frilly chair in turquoise, by Patricia Urquiola, displayed on an illuminated floor that made it seem to come alive.

It’s not necessary to go overboard with multiple turquoise accessories. One piece: that’s all you really need, she said. “Just pop one thing somewhere in a room,” Ms. Viñas said, and it “can give you an amazing contrast.”

TIM McKEOUGH



Foscarini Le Soleil pendant lamp by Vicente Garcia Jimenez; \$1,551 at YLighting, (866) 428-9289, ylighting.com.

Turquoise glass Pill Carafe; \$48 at Jonathan Adler, (800) 963-0891, jonathanadler.com.



Enameled ceramic Bishop stool by India Mahdavi; \$2,160 at Ralph Pucci, (212) 633-0452, ralphpucci.net.



Vintage ceramic head; \$1,500 at the End of History, (212) 647-7598, theendofhistoryshop.blogspot.com.



Cracked turquoise leather address book; \$29.95 at Anthropologie, (212) 343-7070.



Moriches Island Road (Supersonic) print by Meredith Allen; \$1,600 at Amy Simon Fine Art, (203) 259-1500, amysimonfineart.com.



Happy Cat beanbag chair with ear-like handles for children; \$199.99 at Giggle, (800) 495-8577, giggle.com.



Frilly polycarbonate chair by Patricia Urquiola; \$299 at Kartell, (212) 966-6665, kartell.it.