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SPOTLIGHT HOME

Bungalow offers 'Afro chic' style

By **Marena Galluccio**
Fast Copy News Service

Adedayo Lawal and Christopher Altman blended her Nigerian roots and his Midwestern upbringing in their home in Atlanta's historic West End.

The budget-conscious couple scoured outlets, Facebook Marketplace and Lumber Liquidators for materials, furniture and accessories. When they couldn't find exactly what they wanted,

they made or modified the pieces to fit their "Afro chic" farmhouse style. Now, African prints and art join wood furniture in the Craftsman bungalow, which is on the June 23 Historic West End Tour of Homes.

"Our very limited budget guided the design of the home," Lawal said, who estimates they spent about \$6,000 on furniture, art, accessories and fabrics. "We are both naturally minimalists, so neither of us brought much to this home from our former homes. So we literally started from scratch."



SNAPSHOT

Residents: Christopher Altman, Adedayo Lawal and his daughters, Malahni and Samorah Altman. Altman is a machine learning engineer for Emcien and Lawal works in sales.

Location: Atlanta's West End neighborhood

Size: 2,400 square feet, three bedrooms, three baths

Year built/bought: around 1917/2017

Architectural style: Craftsman bungalow

Favorite architectural elements: 10-foot ceilings, loft, six-panel doors, coal-burning fireplaces

Renovations: Energy Conservation Solutions did the foundation and insulation work. They installed hardwood stairs and hardwood floors (purchased from Lumber Liquidators) while they kept the original espresso pine wood floors in the living room, kitchen and a bedroom. In the kitchen, they added molding to the cabinets and lighting. They spent about \$4,000.

Design consultants: McNeal Walker Interiors, Southwest Paint & Decorating Center

Interior design style: "Afro chic" farmhouse

Favorite interior design elements: The mustard chairs the couple painted and the Indian mango wood farmhouse-style dining table.

Favorite artwork: African women tapestries by Mario Gerth, a painting by Mario Sánchez Nevado, and baskets, masks and fabric from London, Côte d'Ivoire and West Africa.

Favorite outdoor feature: The front porch. "It is perched above the street, so you have a magnificent view," Altman said.

Resources: Furniture from Timbergirl, Pottery Barn Outlet, Overstock.com, Ross, Facebook Marketplace, World Market, the letgo app, OfferUp and Furniture Liquidators of Georgia. Lighting from eBay and 1000Bulbs.com. Accessories, artwork and rugs from Ikea, Etsy, T.J. Maxx, HomeGoods, Lamps Plus and Wayfair. Fabric from Fine Fabrics. Blinds from Bargain Mart.

Tip: Be willing to adjust your interior design style if your budget doesn't allow for it. For example, the living room chairs were reupholstered with mustard fabric because the terracotta fabric the couple said they originally wanted would have been six times more expensive. The decision changed the style from a Moroccan look to an African-themed room, they said.



A pair of tapestries by Mario Gerth feature Baro Tura of the Arbore Tribe in Ethiopia and Mumuhulla of the Mwila Tribe in Angola. Their frames were designed and built by Christopher Altman and his father, Greg Altman, using materials from The Home Depot. Pillows sewn by Altman's mother with fabric from Nigeria and Ghana are on a sofa from World Market. The fabric was purchased during travels throughout West Africa and at the Malcolm X Festival in the West End. TEXT BY MARENA GALLUCCIO/FAST COPY NEWS SERVICE. PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER OQUENDO/WWW.OPHOTOGRAPHY.COM



Christopher Altman and Adedayo Lawal, with his daughters, 12-year-old Malahni Altman and 10-year-old Samorah Altman, moved into their home in Atlanta's West End neighborhood in 2017. Altman is a machine learning engineer for Emcien, and Lawal works in sales.



A metal chandelier hangs above the Indian mango wood farmhouse table in the open dining room/kitchen/living space. The red console is from the Pottery Barn Outlet. The Ballard Design bar stools, which they purchased for more than 50 percent off the retail price by finding used ones on Facebook Marketplace, pull up to the granite peninsula.



Etsy was the source for the world art on three panels, which is in their sunroom. The pillow covers were created by Adedayo Lawal's sister-in-law with fabric from Nigeria and Ghana. A small African mask is from Côte d'Ivoire.



A variety of West African baskets decorate the Atlanta bungalow, which is on the Historic West End Tour of Homes on June 23.



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