

The London Free Press

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Home decor goes CRUELTY-FREE

Vegans extend philosophy to paint and furnishings in their home

Interior Design

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Veganism is coming for interior design, and before long faux-leather upholstery derived from apple cores and pineapple leaves may become mainstream.

No Doubt bassist Tony Kanal and actress-designer wife Erin Lokitz wanted to renovate their Los Feliz, Calif., home in line with their commitment to veganism.

The couple enlisted Tatum Kendrick of L.a.-based design firm

Studio Hus to ensure their furnishings contained no trace of animal products or products tested on animals.

“We really emphasized the need for a cruelty-free home,” Lokitz told the Los Angeles Times. “No suede or mohair, and no silk, wool or down.”

They still wanted their 1920s Spanish-style home to be kid-friendly since the pair has two young daughters who need a

place to play.

For the playroom, Kendrick selected a pink, custom-made sofa mimicking the look of mohair.

A leopard-print nylon rug covers the floor, though make no mistake, no leopards were harmed in the making.

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tested on animals.

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“I feel like the awareness in the world right now, especially with climate change, is really pushing design,” said Lokitz, who has raised both daughters on vegan diets and wanted to extend that philosophy to their home environment.

“Knowing nothing in our home has suffered adds to the beauty of it.”

Elsewhere, veganism is slowly creeping into other forms of highend design.

The Duchess of Sussex, Meghan Markle, reportedly painted baby Archie’s room with vegan paint

— free of casein, a binding agent found in cow’s milk.

Bentley luxury cars are fulfilling client requests for vegan vehicle interiors, including one type sourced from wine grape skins.

Environmentally-friendly French designer Philippe Starck recently collaborated with highend Italian furniture company Cassina to produce sofas outfitted in Apple Ten Lork, an apple-based vegan leather concept.

Starck is also experimenting with pineapple textile Pinatex, made from pineapple leaf fibre.

Deborah Dimare, who runs Miami-based vegan interior design business Dimare Design, suggests hemp and bamboo silk mixes for those looking for an alternative to animal wools.

She also recommends cork for upholstery and banana silk and Tencel, a wood pulp fibre, as a substitute for traditional silk.

“There’s no way that you can bring in animal-based materials and decor and call it sustainable or call it clean or call it healthy,” said Dimare. “It’s like saying carrot cake is not fattening.”

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