

e are often drawn to antique pieces that give hints to their age: rustic furniture with the charm of a worn finish, or perhaps the captivating appeal of artful gildings and patina. This glorious display of history is intertwined with the more contemporary pieces in many of today's home designs.

From an early age, I have been fortunate to be surrounded by beautiful antiques that were loved and used in every day life. These pieces became very special to me in the way anything of vintage lineage or antiquity becomes, whether they are inherited or purchased.

Some of you may just be starting out in a new home and have only recently discovered the warmth that antiques can bring to your life. If so, I'd like to help you in making decisions in regards to decorating your new abode with antiques.

For the sake of history and uniqueness, you simply can't beat antique furnishings. By placing at least one antique piece per room, you will add a layer of visual interest and bring the room to life.

Perhaps the allure of vintage is the way in which you connect with treasured pieces of the past. Whatever your connection may be, antiques can touch your soul as they move into your home and become a part of the most personal space in your life. Such objects have personalities, allowing them to create that instant bond with you and your home. They may also give your new abode a little heart and soul of its own in return.

When helping with a young couple's first home, or working with their designer, an antique store owner like myself is often asked to recommend antique furnishings that reflect the homeowner's personal style. A well-chosen initial item helps the couple to start creating an inviting home. An important part of this process is choosing the right family-friendly statement antique piece for each room. This could be an armoire that serves as an entertainment center for the living room, a farm table for the kitchen or a buffet for the dining room.

Your home should embody your personal style, and with the incorporation of important pieces of authenticity you can develop your special look. Your home can be a modern twist on European country style, or a more classic French elegance. You can find furnishings that introduce a particular charm to your new home. As you continue your quest in the years to come, you will capture the history of centuries of classic refinement as well as build an ever evolving, one-of-a-kind home.

The sense of history that permeates even newly furnished antique interiors is demonstrated in its furniture alone. Our furnishings are meant to endure time. They have been beautifully constructed and well crafted with an illuminating patina of warmth.

Most importantly, antiques are "perfectly imperfect" and therefore ideal for young households; they're able to withstand decades of use while continuing to maintain their unique beauty and charm.

