

Antiques in Style

By Inessa Stewart



Inessa Stewart is the owner/designer of Inessa Stewart's Antiques & Interiors. For more antique inspirations visit:
Website www.inessa.com
Blog www.inessa.com/blog,
Facebook www.facebook.com/InessaAntiques,
Pinterest pinterest.com/inessastewart
All Photos Inessa Stewart's Antiques & Interiors.

THE ROMANCE OF THE PAST

The romantic muse has blessed so many generations and periods of antiquity – the Renaissance, Baroque, Rococo and Neoclassicism – all of which exude the essence of passion. You have probably seen the popular movie “Midnight in Paris,” which is a film I think professes much about the illusions of our romantic history. The 18th century, Empire period, Belle Époque and Roaring Twenties – each has left on all of us their mark of undeniable romance associated with these eras in time.

Is there a place for this love of the romantic past in our lives today? Most definitely, yes! The interiors nowadays yearn for these classic inspirations. Armed with an infinite variety of styles, we can achieve the interiors of our dreams. By introducing elements of the storied past we instantly infuse the talents and emotions of entire generations their affairs of the heart.

How do we begin to implement this romance into our lives and surroundings? We start with the architecture of a home which lays the all-important foundation; it can set the stage with sophisticated crown molding or rustic salvaged beams and stone floors. We see this attention to these fundamental components of design in breathtaking and mesmerizing historic homes. Architectural antiques and building elements are close to my heart, as I have seen, first hand, ordinary buildings transformed as if by magic. Like ugly ducklings, they reshape into exquisite swans of design by the use of antique doors and stone or marble mantels.

Of course, antique furniture is always the star in these visions of romantic drama, creating an unmistakable focus of attention by which the entire room can be designed. Spaces with this immediate passionate connection to the past are what we have helped to create with clients of our showrooms for more than 20 years. In these homes we start a design by carefully editing the existing furnishings and then infusing each room with an Old World style that

should never overwhelm, yet add dramatic focus and impact with an enchanting ancient spell. By mixing modern elements such as stylish sofas and comfortable chairs with period antiques, the rooms retain the level of today’s comfort we all desire yet still embody the elegance of history. It is amazing how many clients fall in love with the everyday beauty that antique interiors impart.

Beyond the furniture and antique art, antique accessories imbue the home with heart. Whatever your preference - simple Country French, the Renaissance or the Parisian style - these layers of treasured collections intensify visual impact, creating a lingering focus while bringing definitive attention and essence to the desired style. When carefully curated and grouped, the setting of these objects has an infinite ability to stir our emotions and radiate the passions of the soul. Talented Country French designer and client Charles Faudree has elevated accessorizing to an art form. In his new book, “Details,” he explores at length the process of layering to achieve the desired impact in a room, using gorgeous illustrations to really highlight the beautiful end results.

Another enchanting element of the romantic design focus that cannot be overlooked is that of antique and vintage lighting. The impact of chandeliers, lamps and floor lamps incorporated into a modern lighting plan is unmistakable. We can attest to the ambiance it establishes on many projects we have designed, from charming cottages to historic mansions. The abundance of character and allure that antique lighting produces adds an irresistible and seductive component to an interior scheme.

“A thing of beauty is a joy forever; its loveliness increases; it will never pass into nothingness” - John Keats, an English Romantic poet wrote.

The beauty of living in the present is that we can love and live in the here and now, but learn and borrow from the romantic riches of our history.

