

ANTIQUES IN STYLE

A RENEWABLE RESOURCE OF BEAUTY

By Inessa Stewart



As we start afresh this time of year we look to new goals, new ideas and motivations and a purposeful path for ourselves. We usually begin with aspirations to enhance our lives, our homes and even improve our environment. Writing this column gives me great pleasure and allows me to delight in our common passion for antiques, art and design. As new generations discover and embrace time worn objects of antiquity, I am thrilled to see new design philosophies still strongly embracing the old.

With today's concerns about our environment and the legacy we leave for our children, antiques represent the benefits of inspired tradition, the renewal of spirit and purpose, and conservation of our resources. With a resolve to recycle the past, I would love to reflect on how antiques bring an expression of beauty and an authenticity of style.

Since one of our stores is located in the Dallas Design District and the other near New Orleans (an antique decorator's heaven) - and also thanks to our website - we have been given the true privilege of working closely with many talented designers worldwide. Often in conversations with clients, a specific question arises: "In order to repurpose antiques for today's interiors, what are the trends in antiques for design?"

Of course there are many different trends, but a few really stand out. Directions in design, decorating and fashion sometimes change so quickly in the modern industry.

In contrast, by utilizing and repurposing antiques you are using a classic design which creates a foundation that results in longer, centuries-tested staying power.

ROMANTICISM

What started during the Renaissance never waned - evolving into the Baroque, then the Rococo style, each bringing more charm and allure and yet maintaining a captivating inspiration for the soul. Today we still court romance from timeless antique examples that continue to delight us.

ELEGANCE

European elegance is another style that has never really waned in popularity. It has an enduring and endearing allure for countless generations of homeowners and designers alike. I have a weakness for 18th, 19th and early 20th century French and Italian elegant antique furniture, lighting and décor. I do have to say that these beautiful styles are here to stay as they continually morph themselves into our modern interiors.

MODERN COUNTRY

Tuscan, Swedish Country or Country French styles share a reverence of the past and are rooted in 18th century craftsmanship. Each can celebrate the individual personality of a home - mixing character and styles in effortlessly while blending formality and comfort. Each country style distinguishes itself in the details. It's the antique furniture, patina, color palettes, antique accessories and of course authentic art that speak volumes about putting your own personal stamp on a home.

COLOR

Blue - coming from antique flow blue, transferware, faience and cobalt blue - has never really been out of style and is my favorite. I have been collecting blue and white porcelains for years and am glad to predict that blue is making a strong comeback for 2014.

Grey and White - quiet and peaceful - create an almost inexplicable comfort when represented in interiors since neutral colors possess such harmony. For all these reasons, they are here to stay.

Green - the earthy color of nature - can be represented by antique confit and cache-pots, green glass bonbonnes, landscape paintings, gorgeous antique tapestries with verdi gris tones - and of course antiques themselves - they are all so green!

As I embark on new buying trips this year, I keep

in mind our company beliefs and design philosophy - that antiques are to be lived with, as well as appreciated. Their storied past lends an ambience to our homes and reclaims ancient materials to add authenticity even to new construction, which is a timeless benefit to design as well as nature itself.

