

A BEAUTIFUL INVESTMENT

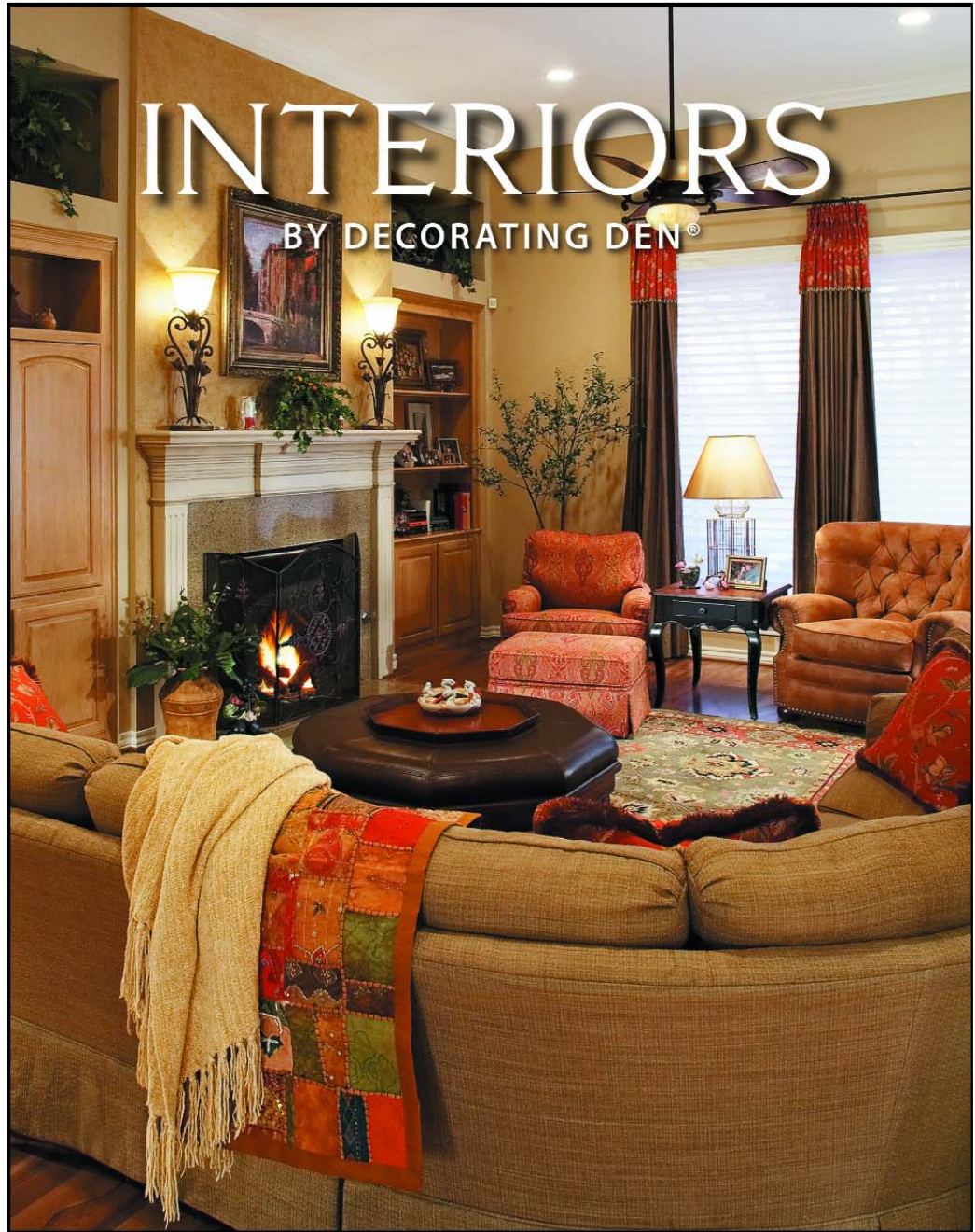


**BLEND THE
LOOK OF
ANTIQUE
AND
MODERN FOR
CHIC AND
TIMELESS
PERSONAL
STYLE**

BY SARAH JUNEK

Walking into a home, the sight of a stunning antique has a way of filling the room with magic. Things of the past, explains Jo Anne McCullough of J. Caldwell Fine Antiques, should be “part of our heritage for the future.”

LEFT:
Taking elements from different periods and then grouping them to create a complementary look — and individual style — is a trend seen at antique stores throughout the Metroplex. Here, an ornate accent pillow on a long woven-seat bench pairs beautifully with a rough-wood bench. Pressed botanicals add softness. Photography by Anthony Rathbun.



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Today's homeowners are looking at antiques as investment pieces that offer their home a one-of-a-kind look. Some are stepping out of the box by using special pieces beyond their original intention. And more and more are incorporating antiques into their modern-style homes, creating a more eclectic look by mixing the old and new.

Ann Kellogg Schooler of Schooler, Kellogg & Company says antiques are essential in any home. "They keep your house from looking like you ordered it from a showroom," she says.

Incorporating antiques allows the innovation of contemporary design without it feeling too sterile. "Some contemporary homes look as if you've left your office and walked right back into it," she says. In particular, "Rooms without lamp light do look like offices."

TIMELESS PIECES, MULTIPLE USES

As antique European buffets and chests become a beautiful alternative to build-ins, homeowners with an eye for investment find they add a mix of timeless tradition and personal taste to the home. "The classic detail makes them immune to trends," says John Stewart, co-owner of Inessa Stewart's Antiques with his wife, Inessa Stewart.

"[A buffet] becomes the focal point," Stewart says. "If you move, you can take it with you."

But the trick is finding the perfect piece for the function. Seeing a shift from the stately beauty of a Louis XIII French armoire, Stewart says he is finding an "increasing role of the buffet in homes and offices" as its unparalleled versatility wins out.

Matching buffets become his and hers dressers for one buyer, a display space for family pictures for another or a credenza with a table for a home office. "Mixing style has become the industry standard," Stewart says. "Almost nobody is buying sets anymore," and it's all about functionality, he stresses.

Today's elegant homes are turning to the entryway as an architectural opportunity for displaying breathtaking European doors. Jeff Jayroe of Jayroe's Antiques on Forrest Lane says the entryway is the first opportunity to set the tone for the home. "We sold an early 19th century door from a Spanish villa in Marbella made of Iroca wood" to a Mexican restaurant on Travis Street, Jayroe says.

Jayroe takes antique wood from French doors beyond repair and turns them into beautiful harvest tables made of 200-year-old solid cherry, black walnut or white oak.

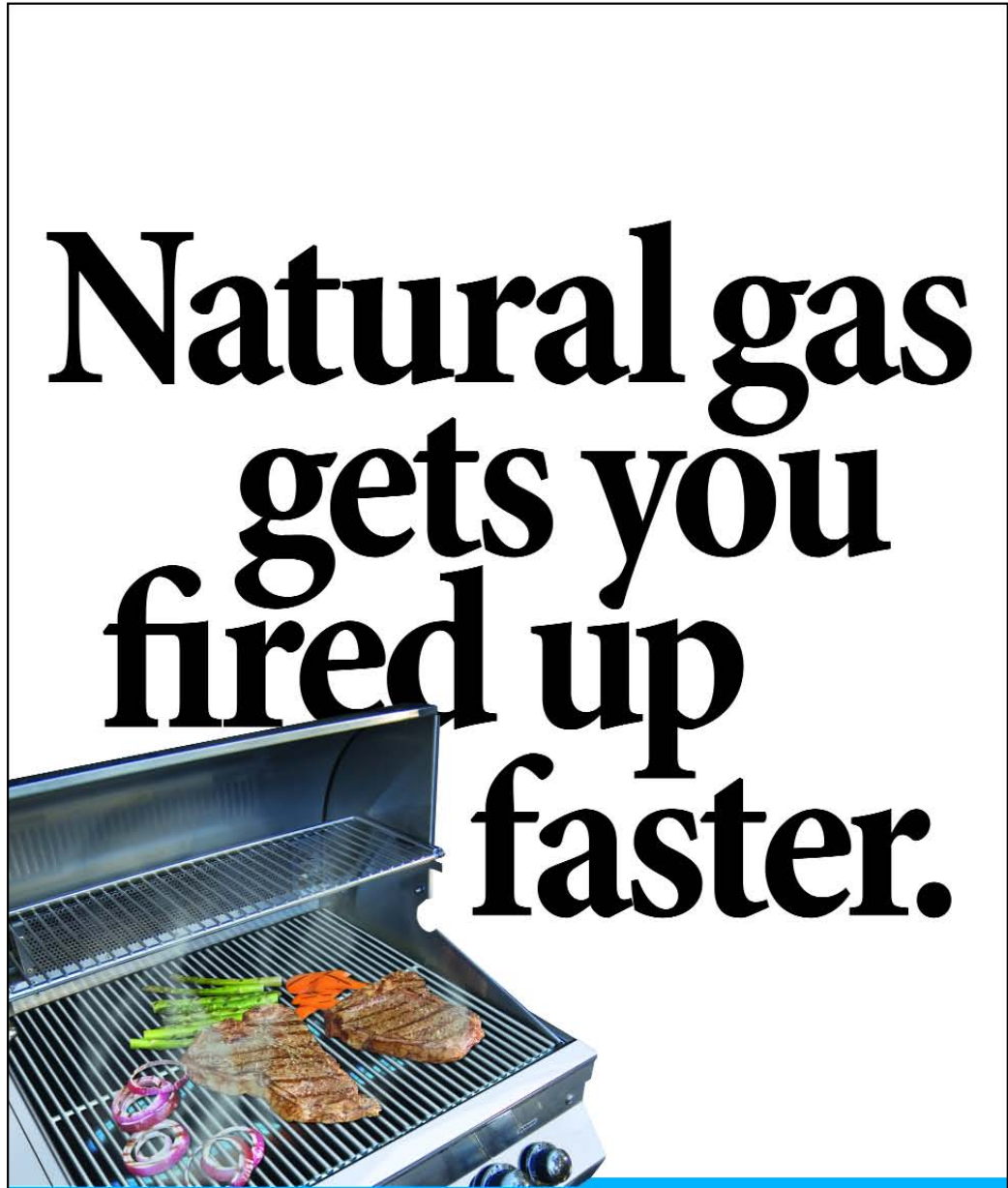
For a more rustic, Hill Country look, the Orange Marmalade Trading Company in McKinney offers tables and chairs made out of railroad ties from South Africa, calling their Rhodesian Teak, Lebombo Ironwood, Panga-Panga and Mukwa "some of the finest and rarest wood in the world."





LEFT: Five door buffets have more storage space than a chest of drawers. This buffet from Inessa Stewart's Antiques becomes an unrivaled focal point to any room.

ABOVE: Place a Louis XVI-style terra cotta urn atop an Art Deco-period burl birch wood table from France, and you have a wonderful combination. The smart look continues with a large cabinet with original painted finish from France, c. 1880, displaying antique books and Chinese porcelain. Photography by Anthony Rathbun.



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ABOVE: Imari Japanese temple jars with lids circa 1800, \$9,750 at J. Caldwell Antiques.

ABOVE RIGHT: Joy Christie's Gallery displays an African ceremonial shield from the Songye tribe, Democratic Republic of the Congo.

BELOW: This antique Sevres porcelain three-piece clock set with bronze dore is \$29,500 at J. Caldwell Antiques inside Debris Antiques off Slocum Street in the Design District.



ANTIQUES TAME HIGH-TECH

While today's homeowners embrace technology, antiques offer a sophisticated way to soften hard lines. The sight of a 2007 Sony Bravia flat-screen TV on top of a Louis XV style commode with mitered corners embellished with gadrooned leaf, volute and acanthus motifs, is quite common and much more eye-catching than mounted directly to the wall. If that won't work, Jayroe cuts a slit out of the top and installs a remote controlled 50-inch plasma lifter capable of hiding the TV altogether.

Next, Jayroe drops a sink in a Louis Philippe chest and sets it in the bathroom. A very rare time period piece, he says, "a lot of people can't believe we put a hole in it." But it's been very popular, he says.

With a few minor alterations to a French oak buffet deux corp circa 1870s, Jayroe transforms it into a gorgeous bar. The top piece mounts to the wall and serves as the cabinet while the bottom half is set on wheels and rolls out to serve drinks from a second set of doors cut from the back panel. Shoppers are making "very personal, custom requests," Jayroe says.

SOMETHING SPECIAL

McCullough suggests putting "just a few important, exquisite antiques in your home," such as a one-of-a-kind Sevres French porcelain clock, an Imari Japanese vase or the finest Georgian sterling silver pieces that are 200 years old and hand-wrought.

If you are blending special antiques into your mostly modern home, Joy Christie of Joy Christie's Gallery says antique tribal pieces, such as a



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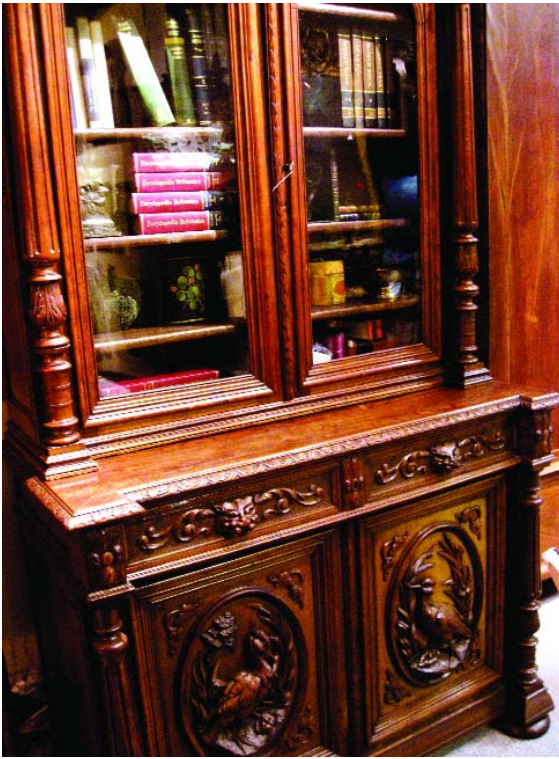
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Tikar royal baby bed from Cameroon or an antique Mangbetu throwing knife with ivory handle blend with modern art because they inspired Matisse and Picasso and the modern art movement in the first place. “[Tribal pieces have] just gone crazy in Europe,” she says. “And prices have gone through the roof.”

Antique mirrors work great in contemporary homes, as do ethnic items, says Schooler. “You’ve chosen something out of context,” she sums up, “and that’s the thing in the room that reflects the owner’s personality.”

FAR LEFT: From Jayroe’s Antiques, this buffet *deaux corp*, a Louis XIII style, c. 1870s, is an oak masterpiece that can be quickly converted into a bar by mounting the top piece to the wall, fitting the bottom with wheels and building an extra set of doors into the back panel. The bottom half can be fitted with a marble top.

LEFT: Enter with the grace of a French mansion or the charm of a Tuscan villa on your doorstep. Mexican restaurant, Trece, located on 4513 Travis Street, features a rustic door from Jayroe’s Antiques.

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