

# A BEAUTIFUL BALANCE

**MIX OLD AND  
NEW. SHOWCASE  
A SINGLE  
STANDOUT PIECE.  
GET CREATIVE  
AND UP-TO-DATE  
WHEN  
DECORATING  
WITH ANTIQUES**

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In years past, antique lovers often picked one style of antique furnishings, such as Louis XVI or Biedermeier, and filled their living rooms with carefully matched collections. "The trend today," says Beth La Penna, ASID, and owner of Interior Reflections, "is to marry traditional and modern pieces to create your own personal style."

*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 town. Here, at Antiques & Interiors on Dunlavy, an ornate accent pillow on a long woven-seat bench pairs beautifully with a rough-wood bench. Pressed botanicals add softness.*

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La Penna declares we've done away with our mothers' "Don't touch that! Don't sit on that!" attitude toward antiques. "Clients tend to relegate antiques to a guest bedroom or study," she says. "Bring them out into the light where you can use and enjoy them every day."

Mona Dees of Antiques & Interiors on Dunlavy notes a movement away from dark, heavy pieces. She notes formal heavy mahogany pieces are not what people are buying today. Rather, today's shoppers prefer a softer, French country style that has become a classic look of its own.

Cathy Kay of the Antique Pavilion observes antique shoppers have different tastes than those she encountered 20 years ago. "We used to see people come in who were collecting hundreds of quilts or multiple sets of cups and saucers," she says. Today, collectors focus on acquiring a few, high-quality pieces. Everyone's looking for something with the 'wow' factor."

LESS IS MORE

Geoffrey Westergaard of Carl Moore Antiques encourages clients to edit their antique collections to include the most eye-catching pieces or the ones with great sentiment or stories. He advises clients to mix and match styles and periods of furniture for a look that is classic, but hip.

His Carl Moore Antiques on Bissonnet near the Museum District features a series of glamorous vignettes that surprise and captivate visitors who meander through the store. A terra cotta Louis XVI urn sits atop a French Art Deco table. Contemporary abstract paintings hang above an Empire buffet. Hundred-year-old potato baskets from Holland are recycled as sculptural wall art. Westergaard doesn't expect every arrangement to be favored, but the idea is to inspire shoppers to be creative and to stimulate their imaginations when they decorate with antiques.

ANTIQUES TAME HIGH-TECH

While today's homeowners embrace technology, antiques offer a sophisticated way to soften the lines. Because of the flat-screen TV craze, Westergaard says "low pieces" with storage cabinets are one of the most sought-after items

**TOP LEFT:** 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. Carl Moore Antiques continues the smart look with a large cabinet with original painted finish from France, c. 1880, displaying antique books and Chinese porcelain.

**TOP:** Silver English biscuit barrels from Antique Pavilion take on a new purpose to as serve toilet paper holders for powder rooms.

**ABOVE:** Mix and match old and new accessories for a sophisticated display, as shown here at Antiques & Interiors on Dunlavy.

**LEFT:** At Carl Moore Antiques, "Wolves," a contemporary abstract painting by Belgian artist Durase, hangs above an Art Deco-period walnut buffet, which is topped with a pair of carved elm capitals from columns from France, c. 1850, and now fitted for electricity.

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in his store. A walnut Louis XVI “buffet bas,” or low buffet, circa 1790, provides an elegant but practical way to display a 2007 Sony Bravia. Unlike expensive built-ins, he adds, “You can take the buffet with you when you move.”

At Antique Pavilion, Kay frequently observes purchases for purposes different than the original intent. Recently she noticed that silver English biscuit barrels were flying out of the store. A decorator told her he was using them as toilet paper holders for powder rooms.

“These days a buffet is rarely purchased for serving food,” she adds. “It’s more likely to land in a powder room where a sink may be put in it.”

Dees sees the same trend at her store, mentioning the use of architectural pieces for lamp bases, rather than porcelain. She also says big antique mirrors and framed botanicals are popular items.

“People are less formal than in the ’40s or ’50s, but there’s a renewed interest in home entertaining,” Kay notes. “That’s why kitchens are so dominant in home design and why plank-top farm tables are so popular. The long tables are used for more than dinner parties.

“Everyone’s always in the kitchen. Many children do their homework at the kitchen table. Well, an antique farm table has a patina. If you truly love antiques, you love the patina. A scratch just adds to the charm.”

Other top-sellers are gold-leaf mirrors, says Kay. Shoppers often purchase an assortment of mirrors to arrange on a wall for an architectural look, she says. “Beside being pretty, mirrors give the illusion of larger space and add light to a room.”

**THE ART OF HARMONY**

“There’s an art to balancing modern’s clean lines with traditional’s timeless beauty,” says La Penna. Brush up on period styles to better mix and match. “Find common elements such as burled wood in contemporary and traditional pieces. Modified cabriole legs on a modern console table look smashing with an antique chest with cabriole legs you may already have in your classic furniture.”

Integrating antiques into your design plan is a great example of recycling and re-purposing pieces for the way you live, she says.

“Antiques add a sense of enchantment and romance,” sums up Westergaard. “They make you happy to be in your home.”



**RESOURCES**

**ANTIQUE PAVILION**  
2311 Westheimer Road  
713.520.9755

**ANTIQUES & INTERIORS ON DUNLAVY**  
3845 Dunlavy St.  
713.522.6996

**CENTURY DÉCOR**  
2007 Southland  
Missouri City  
281.499.9570  
www.centurydecor.com

**INTERIOR REFLECTIONS**  
13314 Boca Raton Drive  
281.580.7775  
www.interiorreflections.com

**LACKEY-PRINCE ART & ANTIQUES**  
3225 Milam St.  
713.529.1242

**LUXOR TRADING**  
7299 Harwin Drive  
Suite B  
713.785.5773

**LEWIS & MAESE ARTS ANTIQUES**  
3815 Garrott  
713.942.7200  
www.lewisandmaese.com

**CARL MOORE ANTIQUES**  
1610 Bissonnet St.  
713.524.2502  
www.carlmooreantiques.com

*TOP: Today’s savvy consumers are purchasing buffets, such as this handsome piece from Antique Pavilion, for usage other than their original intent, especially as bathroom vanities by placing a vessel on top or dropping in a sink and fixtures.*

*LEFT: Old farm tables are hot sellers today, especially for the kitchen, the hub of many a home. For dining, homework or just a decorative touch, these plank-top tables have a rich patina, and a scratch just adds to the charm. From Antiques & Interiors on Dunlavy*