

Antique Furniture

Tables, chests, cupboards, desks, chairs, etc. So many different pieces one has to choose from in a variety of styles; forms, woods and surfaces. Today there are no rules about matching pieces of furniture. One doesn't have to be a purist- decorators are known for mixing old and new with appealing results. The acquisition of a single antique piece can make a dramatic statement as well as being useful. Where do you begin in selecting an antique item for your home or apartment?

1. Decide if the piece you are interested in meets your own aesthetic criteria.
2. Determine if the piece suits your purpose- decorative or utilitarian.
3. Make sure the piece fits your budget-price.
4. Examine the item and ask questions from the person representing the piece.
5. Inquire as to circa date, possible restoration, and consider condition and quality.
6. Educate your eye. Study examples by attending antique shows, museums and shops. Books are available on every antique from colonial to wicker and today's magazines can inspire and provide ideas.

When buying an antique, always ask for a written receipt of sale with the seller's name and information included. A detailed description of the item should be written out as your guarantee. There are many excellent reproductions on the market so be aware. The Fox Valley Show is a screened show which means that you are assured there will be no new or reproduced pieces of furniture on the floor. Dealers at the show are always happy to answer questions and provide information. In our 30 years of buying and selling American antiques, it has been our practice to buy what we really like and to buy the very best that we can afford.

Reference: If you are serious about investment quality furniture, we recommend Furniture Treasury Volume 1 and 2, Wallace, Macmillan Publishing Company