



Shop the world and eras gone by, all while shopping local. Head to page 153 for a curated collection of Savannah's many antique stores.

AT HOME

# For Old Times' Sake

Furnishing the present? Try shopping the past.

Written by SYLVIE BAGGETT

**WHETHER YOU'RE HAVING TROUBLE** placing an heirloom piece or simply looking to incorporate a nod to decades past, Savannah's rich history might just imbue your next interior design project.

"The first step to incorporating antiques into your home is finding a piece that speaks to you," says designer Stephanie Hoey of Stephanie Hoey Interiors. "Begin with pieces you love," add

Jay Massey and James Martin from Massey Martin Design. Like art, antiques are extremely personal and subjective. As Massey and Martin put it, "Not everyone is drawn to a Rothko painting." Fortunately, their advice boils down to something quite simple: purchase items that move you, whatever they may be.

"If you love a piece of art, or you love an antique, let go of the concern of its origin, style or intended use," says Massey Martin »



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— Jay Massey and James Martin, *Massey Martin Design*



All antiques pictured are from the personal collection of Jay Massey and James Martin.

Design. By investing in pieces that you truly love, you’re also investing in the happiness your home can bring. If you do need a jumping-off point, though, Hoey suggests focusing on an element that reflects your current design style. It’s as simple as taking a look around your existing space: “If you like a coastal look, find pieces that have caning in the construction,” she suggests. “If you prefer a modern vibe, mid-century pieces mix in perfectly thanks to their clean lines and quirky legs.”

So, you might know what to find — but what about where to find it? Pojo’s Treasures & Things, a hidden gem tucked away in Midway, Georgia, is one of Hoey’s favorite spots, but she also likes shops closer to home, including Alex Raskin Antiques, located downtown on the corner of Bull and Gordon streets. Savannah’s slow and gentle pace might also inform your purchasing

habits: more than anything, furnishing a home with antiques requires patience.

“Take your time when collecting, and don’t rush to furnish your home all at once,” say Massey and Martin. “If an armoire or other significant piece is all you have for the moment, let the rest fall into place over time. A collected home is more revealing of a homeowner’s interests and appreciation than one assembled overnight.”

With patience, the perfect piece will find you, says Hoey, and once it does, you can count on it to last. “A good antique is timeless and can easily carry over into any design period or style,” Hoey says. Plus, she says, it’s already stood the test of time and will continue to do so. “It means so much when the homeowner is a part of the story of finding a piece that will likely stay in their family forever.” ❁