



# SHAKING things up

Mixing 20th-century pieces with beautiful antique treasures is a hot design trend

A French walnut armoire, circa 1820, R78 000, with a rare English sycamore and pine haberdashery table, R34 000, with Edwardian antlers converted to a candelabra, R1 200, all from Take it for Granted Antiques, teamed with a modern silver champagne coaster, R3 250, a pair of silver-plated candelabra, R3 500, an antique silver soup ladle, R3 000, and a selection of silver and silver-plated bowls and dishes, from R1 000 each, all from A D Antiques.

TEXT DIANA WEIMYSS PHOTOGRAPHS SAADA

No longer are we locked into one period or style when it comes to decorating with antiques; today anything goes. The current global trend of mixing the old with the new, or vintage pieces from the '30s, '40s and '60s with older antiques, gives you so many opportunities to create a unique look.

"It's about individuality, having a bit of daring to use things in different ways," says dealer Lynn Grant of Take it for Granted Antiques. "The beauty of antiques is that an old chair or an oak coffer never goes out of fashion. It takes years to furnish a home. All those lovely pieces that you've collected over time may just need a fresh look, a bit of modern styling around them or perhaps to be given a lift with the addition of a modern piece," maintains Lynn.

"Mixing modern elements with more traditional pieces can lighten the ambience and give your home a 21st-century look," agrees Maryanne Rowlings of A D Antiques. Some examples include hanging black and white photographs above a gilded console, upholstering a Georgian chair in a wildly contemporary fabric, or teaming Ghost chairs with an old wooden table.

In the same way, many buyers are looking for old ▷



ABOVE: An early 19th-century faux bamboo French ladder for use indoors, R8 000, a Georgian window converted to a mirror, R18 000, a small 19th-century Spanish side table in chestnut with a single drawer, R18 000, and a 19th-century Welsh country chair in fruit wood, R18 000, all from Take it for Granted Antiques, teamed with a large green Schneider vase, circa 1920, from a private collection. LEFT: An English oak coffer, circa 1700, R24 000, from Take it for Granted Antiques, teamed with an Eileen Grey Transat lounge, R19 500, from Jeremy Stephens Antiques. A Royal Copenhagen Pheasant vase, circa 1970, R6 900, from Jeremy Stephens Antiques, and the painting *Johannesburg* by Trevor Coleman, circa 1976, R22 000, recently sold by Jeremy Stephens Antiques.

## MAKE A DATE

Catch the South African Antique Dealers' Association's Antiques Fair at the Wanderers Club in Illovo, Johannesburg from 15 – 17 October 2010. It's open daily from 10h00 – 18h00, tickets are R50. For more information, visit [www.saada.co.za](http://www.saada.co.za) or contact Marylou Bawden on 011 880 0815.

**WIN!**

We're giving away 10 double tickets to the Gala Opening of the Antiques Fair on Thursday 14 October, worth R300 each. To enter, SMS the word "SAADA" to 35917. (Turn to page 152 for giveaway terms and conditions.)



‘statement’ pieces to add a punch of personality to a modern room. Don’t be put off because you think purchasing a piece of antique furniture will cost a year’s salary. “A good-looking Victorian mahogany chest of drawers may cost as little as R5 000,” says Maryanne. “Side tables which can be used as coffee or serving tables would cost about the same. While an armchair could be as little as R2 500.”

Even one or two quirky small items can give a fun feel to what might otherwise be a plain interior; just think how effective an antique statue or eye-catching piece of silver would look on a contemporary hall table. **GH**

ABOVE LEFT: An Edwardian Venetian mirror, R18 000, and an English oak trestle table, circa 1900, R12 000, with a selection of silver-topped bottles, from R450 each, two silver hand mirrors, R850 each, and a modern silver-collared decanter, R2 250, all from A D Antiques. ABOVE RIGHT: An Italian rosewood secretaire, Model 530 designed by Gianfranco Frattini in 1957, R85 000, is teamed with a stinkwood split-splat Cape 18th-century chair, R8 500. Add some pottery: a compote, R3 950, vase, R8 500, and a lidded bowl, R1 750. The book is *Die Kaapse Kombuis* by Mary Alexander Cook, R1 800. The painting is *Chicago scene* by du Bois, R6 500. All from Piér Rabe Antiques.



## GET THE LOOK

Mixing modern and antique sounds simple enough, but it can be tricky to get the look right. Jeremy Du Mughn, owner of Jeremy Stephen Antiques and vice chairman of the South African Antique Dealers’ Association, shares some tips:

- Get a dealer to help you, someone who not only knows about decor, but has a good understanding of different periods and furniture.
- Completely contrasting materials tend to work better together; teaming walnut and stainless steel would create more of an impact than pairing walnut and imbuia pieces as they’re both dark woods.
- Don’t put a mass of dark objects together, rather mix dark with light.
- Consider size and scale. If you have a large, strong piece, don’t put little accessories with it, or if you do, group them to create one larger composition.
- Rotate your pieces; swapping your chairs around, changing accessories or moving a table can invigorate an interior.

### SOURCES

**A D Antiques** 011 788 6214 **Jeremy Stephen Antiques** 011 880 5525 **Piér Rabe Antiques** 021 883 9730  
**South African Antique Dealers’ Association**  
[www.saada.co.za](http://www.saada.co.za) **Take it for Granted Antiques**  
 011 483 3537