

Secondhand Splendor



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1. FRESH AND FOUND

Despite being a matching set, the vases on the mantel were actually found on two separate occasions. Using the pretty color of the reupholstered settee as inspiration for the color palette, interior designer Kathryn J. LeMaster also added faux bamboo Chinese Chippendale chairs of the same hue paired with heirloom side tables.

A 1930s cottage is revived with family heirlooms for a refreshing nod to the past.

BY KAREN WILHELMSSEN | PHOTOGRAPHY BY RETT PEEK
STYLING BY CHIP JONES

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2. paneled to perfection

One of the homeowner's requests was to preserve the wood paneling in the den, which offsets the contemporary artwork. The sectional was custom, while the ottomans were found online for a bargain and reupholstered. Next to antique side tables and a walnut chair found at an estate sale, these are what Kathryn calls "flexible pieces" that can easily be moved from one room to another when entertaining.



When a home has been in the family for generations, it's only fitting that the décor also reflect and honor its rich history and character. Such was the case for this cottage built in 1930 in Little Rock, Arkansas.

After inheriting the home from her parents, homeowner Lynn Baker wanted to incorporate many of her heirloom treasures into the space, so she enlisted the help of interior designer Kathryn J. LeMaster. "She wanted to find ways to breathe new life into her favorite pieces before having to part with anything," Kathryn says. "We were strategic about making the space her own yet honoring her family's history. Some of her goals were to reflect her personality as a repurposer and recycler, while paying tribute to the architecture."

IRREPLACEABLE HEIRLOOMS

Kathryn used some of her client's favorite hand-me-down furnishings as catalysts for the designs. For instance, the coral settee in the sitting room is a piece the homeowner inherited.

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Kathryn developed the room's color scheme around that one piece, while keeping the original antique wood finish on the frame intact. The two wooden coffee tables, which pair well with it, are also antiques.

"When a home is strategically designed to reflect the client's style or story, friends and family walk in and can sense that it's their home. It adds a warmth to the space that I don't think you can replicate without recycled, repurposed or vintage pieces," she says.

SUNNY DELIGHT

The homeowner's favorite room in the house is her potting room, which leads to the garden. Built from what was once an enclosed porch, the room was previously carpeted and had been underutilized as additional storage space. The homeowner asked Kathryn if there would be a way to transition the indoors out—so the idea for creating a sunroom for potting plants was born.

Kathryn worked with contractor Tim Hankins, who had the idea of upcycling a galvanized metal washtub into a sink. To make the most of the ample natural light, hanging plants were added, suspended from industrial pipes. Kathryn's client now feels like her home is the best of both worlds: a unique space embodying her personality and one that pays homage to the past.

See Sources, page 128.

Preserve Honor with Heirlooms

Interior designer Kathryn J. LeMaster provides her tips for working with inherited treasures.

- **Keep what you can't part with.** "I grew up in a big family and I'm a sucker for good stories with heart and meaning," Kathryn says. Though you may not have space for every piece of inherited furniture you've ever received, keep versatile, timeless pieces that can go with a variety of looks as your style evolves.

- **Use heirlooms as inspiration.** "A lot of times the pieces (clients) already have or were gifted to them are inspiration points that I build the design around," Kathryn says. Pick a favorite knockout antique piece for each room, and use it as inspiration for each space's color palette. If it's a neutral-colored piece, get inspiration by pulling some fabric options to go with its style.

- **When in doubt, repurpose it.** If you grow tired of a piece, think of ways to refresh the look before tossing it out. "Those castoff pieces can be purchased for half the price, leaving you a little leeway to customize it because it'll still be less than the cost of buying it brand new," she says. Reupholster a chair, paint a dresser or reframe a piece of artwork for a new look.

3. GARDENER'S OASIS

For the homeowner, whom Kathryn describes as a green thumb, she created this workroom as a transitional space to pot plants in, which leads to the garden. Distressed blue paint on the ceiling's beadboard mimics the sky, while the large arched windows let in plenty of light for the hanging plants.

