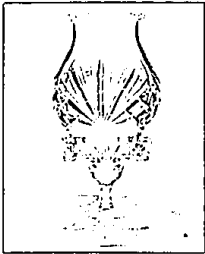


# Updating antiques

# Mix, match collectibles



necessarily belong in the little-used guest room just because you've got a thoroughly modern living room. You may be able to incorporate it, along with other beloved antiques, for a new and interesting look.

Of course, some guidelines should be considered when combining the old with the new to prevent a jumble no one would enjoy.

All furnishings, whether they be one or 100, should be well designed and in good taste.

Classic pieces are especially versatile. Most important, the moods of the furnishings should match, say Better Homes and Gardens editors.

When in doubt, ask yourself if the piece in question is in line with the overall look you want to create, formal or informal.

Since you definitely won't have much unity in design with an eclectic room, use color to tie it all together. Repeat a simple, basic scheme of only a few colors for unity.

**TRY USING THE** same pattern on several pieces of furniture or sprinkle matching pillows around the room. Don't be afraid to use bright colors, formal or informal fabrics with antiques.

Using the same type of major accessories will also help.

To counteract some people's objections to tract housing's

uniformity, the editors of *Bride's* magazine used eclectic furnishings — early American reproductions, modern Italian and French Louis XVI — in designing the "Amhurst" home for Levitt Homes.

"Like any buyer of a development home, we couldn't make any structural alterations to the design," says Alecia Beldegreen, *Bride's* creative director. "But we were able to achieve dramatic changes through decorating."

As for the antiques in your home, Victoria Foster-Gwin, an interior designer, suggests in *Better Homes and Gardens* Decorating magazine that you make sure you love them and want to live with them as much as you value their investment worth.

Her husband, Collier, an antique dealer, agrees, adding that there is significant value in antique furniture. If you do end up selling your antiques, you'll likely get a higher percentage of your cost than you will with new furniture — or at least one that comes close to your initial investment.

And there's always the possibility of trading one old piece for another if your tastes change.

**WHAT MAKES AN** antique valuable? Many factors, including condition, source and

origin, material, authenticity, quality, availability, according to *Better Homes and Gardens* editors. Conduct your antique hunts at auction houses, estate sales and stores specializing in antiques, although you may stumble onto an occasional treasure at a flea market, garage sale or swap meet.

Beginners do best when they study up on antiques before putting down their money.

Consider your antiques when purchasing new furniture. If you've been true to a certain historical period for decades, now may be the time to scatter your older pieces around the house, adding contemporary flair by mixing in new furnishings in the season's latest materials and hues.

Even accessories, like an antique doll or vase, can come down off a lofty shelf and onto a geometric display post.

Dare to break that strictly traditional American room heavy with antiques with some new modern pieces and pastel tones.

Don't hide your grandmother's armoire in the bedroom when it would complement your post-modern dining room. The point of eclectic decorating is to use a piece where you want, not where the rules dictate. When you're the boss, the possibilities are endless.

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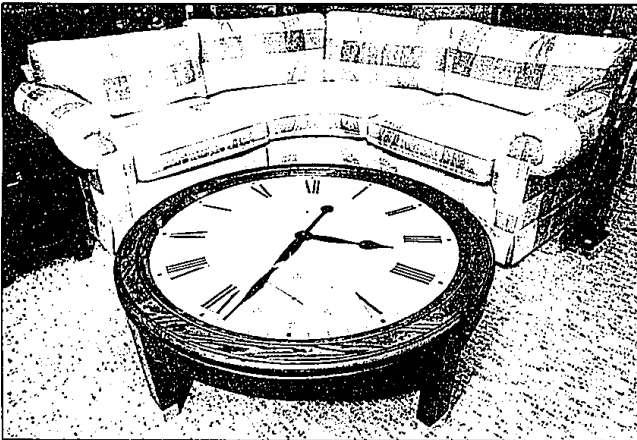
**ANTIQUES** ARE often treated like museum pieces.

Home owners purchase them for their investment value, fine design and historic craftsmanship. There are a few "ooohs and ahhs" over the new addition, then it's banished to a high shelf or an out-of-the-mainstream room to dodge the wear and tear of everyday living.

Today, many interior designers are suggesting antique lovers change their thinking about their precious finds. Instead of seeing antiques as "untouchables," why not mix them freely with more contemporary furnishings for an eclectic look, demanding that each antique purchased serve a purpose... and be used.

A **FAIRLY NEW** term in the decorator's dictionary, the eclectic look demonstrates gentle rebellion against the unwritten rule that everything should match.

Eclectic means you can reflect your personal preference, embracing the best of many periods and styles, according to the "Better Homes and Gardens New Decorating Book" (Meredith, 1981). That Victorian desk doesn't

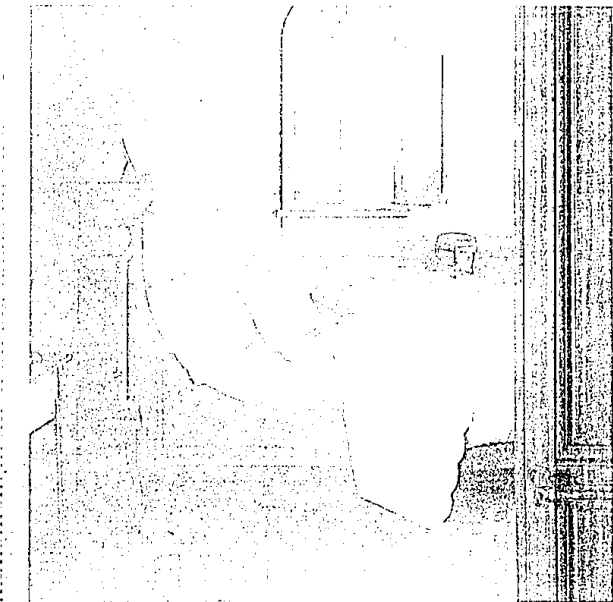


MINDY SAUNDERS/photographer

## And it works, too

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