

## COVER STORY

# Antiques offer a TREASURE TROVE of design ideas

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Special Writer

Ever think about decorating your home with antiques? Vintage furniture and accessories add character to interiors by steeping rooms in history.

A morning-long visit to the Greek Revival home of area residents, who asked that their names not be used, revealed a host of design ideas.

Bought over a period of more than 30 years from local dealers, the antique furniture, an eclectic mix of formal and country, maintains the integrity of the architecture structuring the 7,000-square foot home that was built in 1952.

Even the Paul Revere lantern lamp posts lining the driveway of the 3-1/4-acre property are in keeping with the owners' intent.

"Overall, we wanted to make it 18th century Federal. Our original home (a classic Marblehead in Birmingham)

was country or primitive. Now we've switched to a formal look to match the exterior of the home. We feel strongly about the interior matching the exterior architecture," one of the residents said.

## Examples

The burl walnut William and Mary highboy with trumpet legs (c. 1680-1720) in the living room is definitely a focal point of the home. A hidden document drawer at the top was meant "to keep Indians away from important papers."

On the other end of the room, Chinese export vases decorate the mantel. Silhouettes by itinerant artists, who roamed from town to town in the 1800s in search of work, fill the adjoining wall.

"The silhouettes are all hand-cut because they didn't have cameras back then," another resident said. "The

See ANTIQUES, 14D



In the corner: Every corner in the home is used to create an effective overall design.

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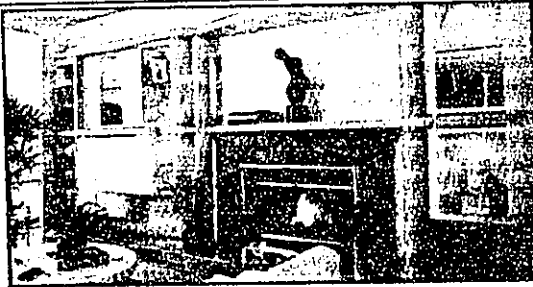
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Mirror, mirror: A Queen Anne lowboy in the entranceway greets visitors to the home of a couple who has been collecting and decorating with antiques for more than 30 years.

On the cover: A striking entry to the dining room features a vista with a pedestal table and Hepplewhite chairs. Photo by Bill Hansen.

