

Antiques from page 12D

small pieces look better when grouped together."

In the dining room, Hepplewhite chairs with Prince of Wales' feathers and ovals of inlaid woods decorating the backs date from the late 17th or early 18th century. A colonial ratchet floor lamp next to a sofa in the music room and a rare Masonic sampler from around 1792 originally used in the couple's first home provide a mix of formal and authentic Early American.

"As pieces come in other pieces leave but above all else, it's all useable, all functional."

Rule of thumb

The couple has a rule of thumb before any purchase is made. Both must agree on it. Throughout the tour, there were plenty of stories on how their purchases came about.

But what is the main reason this retired ophthalmologist and his wife chose to surround themselves with antiques? The history behind them: what period and place the vintage pieces held in the lives of our ancestors.

"There's a history behind every piece. The colonists traded tobacco for the Chinese porcelain. The brass candlesticks you see all over the house were very important to the colonists because it was their only form of light."

To mention the way they used a Chippendale chair, bride's box or Federal bullseye mirror would take longer than the length of this article permits. The 32 antique dealers at the third annual Holiday Antiques Show Tuesday-Thursday, Dec. 5-7, at The Community House in Birmingham will be available to answer any questions visitors have about decorating with antiques.

Design tips

In the meantime, here are a few of the residents' tips for buying and designing with antiques:

Keep an eye on the proportion of the room. Buy small scale furniture rather than large. Smaller pieces give a larger look when arranged to create seating groups that look comfortable and inviting.

Use soft colors of fabrics and carpeting for warmth.

Spend time reading and researching the history of an antique and then buy only from reputable dealers. Look for a dealer who will allow you to return a piece if it doesn't fit in once you get it home.

Don't buy an antique because you think it's something you should have. Buy it because you love it.

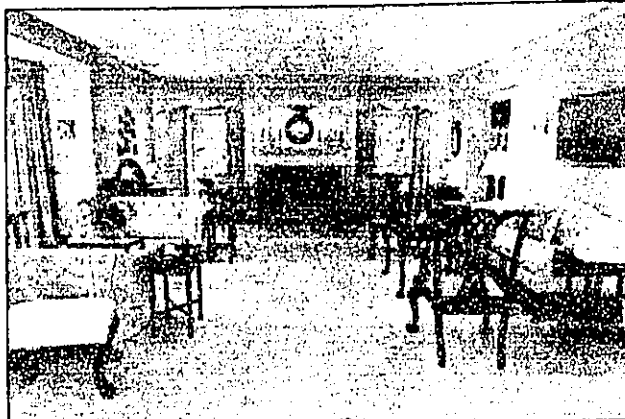
Finish is one of the easiest ways to spot a reproduction. The majority of vintage furniture pieces have a matte finish. If the wood shines, beware.

Lighting is important. A very dim, dismal room can be depressing on Michigan's dark days.

Finally, never ever refinish an antique because it destroys the value. And buy in a condition good enough to be functional.



Shadow play: Use eye-catchers like these silhouettes grouped above a table for variety.



PHOTOS BY BILL HANSEN

Living room: The residents designed this room for comfort by arranging smaller furniture pieces in seating groups.

Holiday antiques show set

If you're thinking about decorating or accenting your home with antiques, a visit to The Community House's third annual Holiday Antiques Show Dec. 5-7 could prove quite a find. Dealers from 10 states won't only have furniture with which to design interior spaces but porcelain, Majolica, Quimper, pattern glass, quilts, prints, lamps and clocks for accenting as well.

The show, presented at The Community House, 380 S. Bates in Birmingham, kicks off with a preview night 6-9 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 5. Tickets are \$30 per person and include light hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar.

The show continues 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 6, and to 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 7. Admission price of \$5 includes two hours of free validated parking.

"The show will feature 32 dealers, 14 more than last year, with everything from English and American antiques to china and silver," said Connie Lovell, a member of the volunteer committee producing the show.

Sponsored by McDonald & Company Securities Inc. and the Bank of Bloomfield Hills, the show will offer a special Holiday Boutique stocked with decorative items like candles, toys and reproductions of Victorian ornaments. Visitors will be able to refresh themselves at a cafe 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday and until 4 p.m. Thursday, or drop by for tea, available at 5 p.m. both days.

Local dealers in the show include Shelley Barr Antiques of Bloomfield Hills, Candlestick Antiques, Clarkston; Dede and Jim Taylor, Troy; Waters Edge, Oxford; Rare Old Prints, Royal Oak; Marjorie Brink Antiques Berkeley; and Toothill & McBean and Carol Hutchins Cole, Ann Arbor.

For more information, call The Community House at (810) 644-6832.

Northwood Jewellers The Bridal Store

Silverware, China and Crystal SALE

SAVE 25% TO 60% EVERYDAY

on the following name brands
CALL FOR PRICES
BRIDAL REGISTRY
Order NOW for Christmas!

WE WILL NOT BE UNDERPAID. TELL US IF WE'RE WRONG!
*CASH DISCOUNTS APPLY.

Northwood Jewellers EST. 1947

2602 N. Woodward (at 12 1/2 MBS) Royal Oak
(810) 649-1885

Holiday Hours: Mon.-Fri. 10-6; Saturday 10-6
Your Hosts: Al & Ruth Belinger

- Rolex
- Fraser
- Waterford
- Lorc
- Royal Doulton
- Noritake
- Mikasa
- Hutschenreuter
- Wedgwood
- Rosenthal
- Spode
- Reed & Barton
- Towle
- Lunt
- Gorham
- Wallace
- International
- Oneida
- Dansk
- Jean Cousin
- Yamaguchi
- Souda
- Ickle Shell
- and Others

Kitchen Remodeling?

Reface & Save!

Did you know that Cabinet Clinic refaces more kitchens in the Metro area than any other kitchen remodeling company? Why? We offer the best value. Period.

Livonia/Wonderland Mall
(313) 421-8151
Warren/Universal Mall
(810) 751-1848

cabinet clinic **FREE ESTIMATES**

• Licensed • Insured • References Available •