

NapervilleSun

Choose antique and know where to put it at fair

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Ever wonder if an antique is worth buying? Or if a piece will look good in your home?

Here's your chance to get help on both fronts.

First, the 13th annual Merchandise Mart International Antiques Fair in Chicago takes place this weekend.

Second, two Naperville decorators will offer advice for those who might not know exactly how to incorporate antiques into their decorating.

"Many people love antiques," said Joan Kaufman, owner of Interior Planning and Design in Naperville. "But they really ... don't know how to decide what's a good antique and how to use an antique."

Kaufman, along with Michelle Banks Watt, owner of Michelle Banks Interiors in Naperville, will be taking part in "Designers-on-Call" at the Antiques Fair.

Patrons can register for \$10 online and receive an hourlong consultation with an American Society of Interior Designers' professional. These designers, who are donating their services, have had years of educational and hands-on experience and are well versed in antiques. Consumers can bring in photographs, floor plans or walk the show floor with the designer in search of that "perfect" antique.

According to Kaufman, "Designers-on-Call" is a great opportunity for those who are curious about how to incorporate antique pieces into their home's space.

"Someone browsing around the antique show may be uncomfortable and need a little design help," Kaufman said. "We're there to offer that."

Kaufman believes that antiques can be fabulous signature pieces that can add a "wow" to any room. Kaufman suggests, rather than packing a room full of antiques, have antiques interspersed among other pieces -- perhaps an antique side table or console in a family room or a piece used in a foyer or music room that adds a little "fun" to the décor.

Designers at the fair also will be choosing their favorite finds to be featured at "Designers Discoveries." Designers will sift through the thousands of antiques at the fair and choose their favorite item to be highlighted throughout the weekend. They will show how the piece can be used in a home and will be on hand to educate people about their chosen piece. At last year's show Kaufman featured Dali dreamstone, one-of-a-kind, thin slabs of

marble that can be used as pieces of art. She showed how to incorporate the dreamstone into a variety of different decorating styles from contemporary to transitional.

"(Antiques) have a commanding presence about them, so I typically incorporate antiques into my design when I'm looking for a piece that catches attention," Kaufman said.

The Antique Fair, which will feature more than 100 of the world's top dealers, runs concurrently with Artropolis, Chicago's celebration of art, antiques and culture at the Merchandise Mart. An expected 50,000 collectors, designers and consumers who visit the fair will find everything from Asian to period pieces, books to paintings, all available in a wide array of price points.

<http://chicago.timeout.com/events/city-picks/337955/4447348/international-antiques-fair>