



## Dusting off New Trends

by Evan Stern

**A**H, THE BITTERSWEET foibles of “finding”! The bleary-eyed early-bird romps through muddied barns and byres, the peevish haggling of Parisian marketeers, and that most delicious of moments: brushing off some sooty ephemera to better gaze upon the treasure underneath. Whether it’s the highbrow French stuff or rusticated colonial finery that sends your heart aflutter, we all have a bit of that obscurantist compulsion to seek out and preserve certain articles of antiquity. For

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some of us, it starts with items inherited, and for others, a happenstance love affair within the crowded stalls of some far-off bazaar, but either way, the passion dances along as markets crescendo and crumple.

Those markets, of course, have proven a difficult bedfellow for some collectors and dealers to bear. Some fine things seem to have tumbled in value so drastically that a great number of dealers have simply locked them away in storehouses to “wait it out,” while others try their hands at disastrous margins; often to no

avail. Some things are unwavering: Louis the Umpteenth, the glittering chrome of Mid-Century Modern, space-age acrylics pressed into coffee tables. But when the markets start to slalom downhill, something else occurs: the trappings of decor that dominate your local dealer’s showroom are dictated more often according to aesthetic than to upside. This is a time for

**Above:** A heap of wartime relics at Christopher Clarke Antiques.



and teak in lustrous finishes bring warmth and depth and look good juxtaposed against just about any old thing, but display themselves with a nod to relevance in rooms of a nautical or Anglo-colonial nature. Makes one think of things that go forth with a thud!—ships, trains, and big game. When we need a place to keep the gunpowder dry, we ring up the Nye Auction company in Bloomfield, New Jersey.

#### Rattan and Reed

Whether you're furnishing a stately pile or a seaside shack, classical and faux bamboo furniture is back in a big way. Gracefully informal, nothing makes your guests feel more at ease rubbing a little sand into the carpets than the leisurely essence that exudes from reeded furniture. For an especially retro experience, nose around for pieces by Ficks or glam it up with some mid-century Milo Baughman bamboo, bathed in chrome. Or simply part with a few pesos at the nearest resort locale estate sale, have your finisher splash on a vibrant color, shake up a few Rob Roys and enjoy a swinging-60s, Jupiter Island vibe. Look for pieces without excessive adornment or upholstery for an easy, rum-sodden entertaining atmosphere. CIRCA WHO of West Palm Beach is a virtual treasure trove.

#### Design de Chine

Nothing adds a dash of worldly sophistication like a little chinoiserie; its high polishes and finely joined metalworks inspiring the same flights of fantasy as it did when it first debuted to style-conscious westerners 400 years ago in the prim parlors of the gentle French. Asian pieces comprise a vast diaspora of archetypes and can be used to build upon a variety of suggestion; a handsomely figured cinnabar cabinet will look right at home in the study in the company of brawny language and chest hair, whereas the delicate stylings of a japanned linen press sit without self-consciousness in even the most gilded Rococo room. To complete your exotic new digs, hand-printed wall coverings in

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tastemakers rather than rainmakers.

Here are the three biggest trends in decorating that we've observed for 2018.

#### The Drawers of War

The sturdy and masculine stylings of

militant mahogany still reign supreme in the chicest shops from Pasadena to Providence. The creature comforts of mustachioed marauders add a noble charm to any space and suggest roguish adventure. Sturdy woods like camphor, mahogany



silk are the finishing touch. For the best examples of this style, pay a visit to Mandarin Antiques in Atlanta.

As you may have noticed, decorators and dealers alike are turning towards the expressive and the bohemian once again, as formal, decadent furniture languishes in the stables collecting dust.

seeing a bit of a revival this year as well, and one can never go wrong with a pair of malachite buffet lamps. A few tasteful pieces of pop art to balance out the bronzes goes a long way in demonstrating one's modernity, to be sure, and your electric lamps needn't be older than Methuselah to be stylish. R

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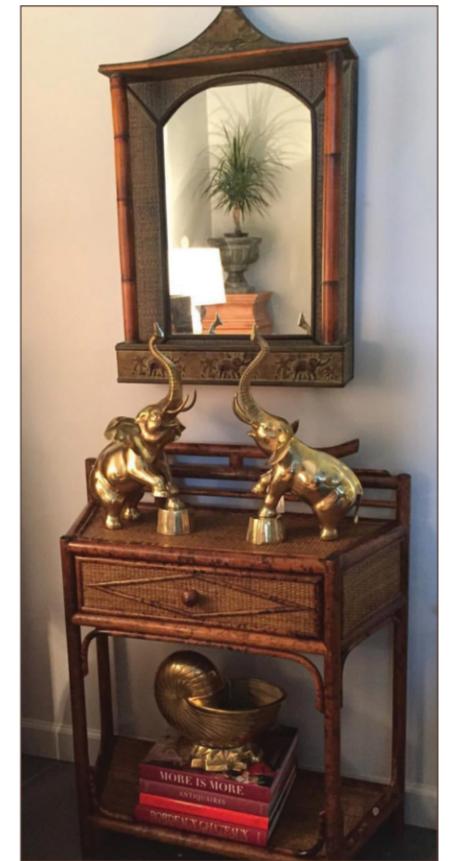
Don't be dismayed by this turn from the antediluvian. It's not to say your old Georgian bookcases are without charm; rather, it may be high time to adorn them with a few “arty” things. Baubles and lighting in semi-precious stone are

Below: Stylings of the East from Griffith and Wong.

Opposite Top: A Reedy bunch at Patricia's Gallery of West Palm Beach.

Opposite Bottom: Accoutrements of Glory; Christopher Clarke Antiques.

Right: Rattan and Reed at Patricia's Gallery of West Palm Beach.



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