

You're well-known for your skill in incorporating vintage and antique items into your designs. What is it about these items/style that appeals to you?

I like designing with antiques because they create a one-of-a-kind environment. Antiques provide the opportunity to create an individual aesthetic and by mixing pieces that speak to you, you're creating your own story.

Do you have a favorite find?

Oh man. I have so many pieces that I am drawn to and enjoy daily. Maybe the Antique French rooster sign I have hanging in my pantry. It really adds an unexpected element to an otherwise polished environment. There's also an early 20th-century Italian portrait painted in oil in my dining room that has provided a bit of mystery. I love the composition of the brush strokes and the likeness of the subject. He's wearing what looks to be a blue painter's smock—I've always wondered if this was a self-portrait of the artist.

One of the biggest reasons some people shy away from antiques can be that they're worried about damaging them, especially if they have children. What's your advice?

I'm not very worried about my antiques. Knicks and scratches just add another layer to an already evolving patina of 200 years of use!

Time-worn finishes can be a bit more forgiving, which is a real plus for active households.

Photo by Kristin Greenwald

