



Careful use of color and pattern help pieces from different eras live in harmony.

Photo by Jeff Garland

Finally, how much is too much? Can you ever have too many antiques in an interior design?

I think it's all about contrast and balance. If you think you're getting too heavy with the antiques, lighten the walls, the upholstery, and do some light draperies to add softness. Or if you are getting too light in your decor, buy something a bit crusty and interesting—like a dark piece with a really fabulous patina that will anchor the whole space. Use a sisal rug. Get the lighting right. Set the mood!