

# If You See It, Buy It!

When designers are hunting at antique stores, yard sales, flea markets, and more, these are the real treasures that stop them in their tracks.

By BRITTANY ANAS AND THE *HOUSE BEAUTIFUL* EDITORS



## STONEWARE

This pottery is created when clay is fired at much higher temps than for porcelain or earthenware. Antique bowls, pitchers, and crocks are valued at anywhere from \$100 to \$100,000 per piece. Look for a manufacturer's stamp on the bottom.



## PLYCRAFT CHAIRS

Similar to the Eames chair and ottoman, these lounge-footstool combos made by the now-defunct Plycraft company starting in the late 1950s fetch a few thousand dollars today. Check for the company's label under the seat.



## PENDLETON BLANKET

Beloved for nearly 130 years, these wool classics have recognizable geometric patterns often inspired by Native American designs. Vintage throws start around \$150; rare ones go for much more.



## LIGHT FIXTURES

"Rewiring lamps is inexpensive," says Willow Wright, owner of Urban Redeux in Alexandria, Virginia. Lamp shops can do it for around \$25, plus the cost of materials (\$10 to \$15).



## TRAMP ART

This ornate style of woodworking involves the meticulous carving and layering of found wood or objects like nails and Popsicle sticks. Today, these icons of outsider art can be worth several hundred dollars.



## GAINEY PLANTER

A planter is worth a lot if it's marked "Gainey Ceramics" on the bottom, says Karen Nepacena of Destination Eichler near San Francisco. The former pottery brand's handmade glazed planters can sell for hundreds of dollars.

## TRAVERTINE FURNITURE

Travertine consoles and tables are hot items at vintage stores, says vintage expert Leah Ashley. The pitted limestone, formed by mineral deposits in natural springs, ranges in color from ivory to pink.





### WICKER OR RATTAN CHAIRS

New Hampshire designer Debbe Daley points out that porch chairs are easy to clean with dish soap and a garden hose, then top with new cushions. If the legs are unwinding, she says, you can fix them with a staple gun and glue. They add great texture to a room.

ISTIDBS (PLYCRAFT, GAINEV, TRAMP ART, TRAVERTINE, MAJOLICA, BOOK, WICKER), GETTY IMAGES (LIGHT FIXTURES, SILVER, MIRROR), ETSY/LYNNIELOUWHOO (STONEWARE).



### STERLING SILVER

"Sterling can be restored to shining beauty with a little polish," says designer Elisa Baran Tréan. An etching that says "925," "92.5," or "SS" is proof a piece is, indeed, sterling.

### MAJOLICA POTTERY

This colorful, glazed earthenware with three-dimensional flora and fauna can sell for \$1,000 to \$6,000 apiece. "They work well on plate stands or hung above doorways," says designer Avery Cox.



### COFFEE-TABLE BOOKS

Hardcovers add style to a home—and antiques such as *Audubon's Birds of America* have major resale value. "We constantly look for great coffee-table books; they're a big part of our design," says Mark Cutler of CutlerSchulze.



### VINTAGE MIRRORS

"A mirror is an immediate 'Yes' for me, especially if the glass has aged," says Caroline Kopp, an interior designer in Westport, Connecticut. Kopp feels the haziness or blotches that come with age "are spectacularly imperfect."