

HOMES & GARDENS

THE BEST IN DESIGN, DECORATION AND STYLE

How to style antique furniture for a timeless, transitional space – 9 designers share their tips

Ideas

Antique furniture brings character and historic charm to any space. Here's how the experts achieve an enduring design scheme with vintage pieces



2. HONOR YOUR HOME'S ARCHITECTURE

Antique furniture is eye-catching, and loads of fun to decorate with, but it's important to be intentional about what you showcase in your home.

Caroline Brackett, principal designer of South Carolina-based [Caroline Brackett Studio of Design](#), says that the story of an item matters just as much as its aesthetic appeal.

'We like to integrate elements that are true to the history of the home's architecture and in keeping with the historical elements of the home. The juxtaposition between the old mixed in with some new results in an aesthetic that feels both visually impressive and welcoming, but isn't too stuffy or traditional,' she says.

Picking pieces from the same time period or noting key features like finish or detailing will keep your whole home feeling like it flows. Caroline also notes to pay attention to scale, as vintage goods aren't always made in modern-day standard sizes.

'Layering is an essential element to Southern style and a timeless, transitional space. Consider a modern coffee table atop an heirloom rug or an antique Imari bowl to host an orchid. Mix a modern animal print with a traditional buffalo check. Throw in a French gilded mirror with more contemporary lighting choices,' says Caroline.