

## Incorporating Fine Art and Antiques into Your Home



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Bucks County is truly an amazing place to work, live and play. With breathtaking scenery and captivating natural beauty, Bucks County is a haven for its residents and artists alike. Not only are the landscapes inspiring for the senses, Bucks County is home to some of the finest art and antiques galleries in the country. It is a collector's paradise for that educated buyer looking to find that perfect piece of art or antique item for their home.

My clients often ask me how to incorporate fine art and antiques into their homes without making it seem too dated or overdone. When using antiques in the décor of a room, one needs to remember that the goal is to make your home a personal refuge not a mini museum. The "Museum Effect" results from an overabundance of antiques that are placed throughout without attention to the purpose or visual effect you are trying to achieve. The one thing that we need to keep in mind when decorating with antiques is that we are living in the present and not the past. Our homes need to reflect that reality, however, it is very acceptable today to

blend the old with the new. Doing so produces interior spaces that are exciting, interesting and unexpected.

The first thing to consider when using art and antiques in your home is the overall design theme. What is the look, style and feel that you want to achieve. Once that has been established, the next step is to survey what items you already own and like to reuse and what items you would like to add. Make sure that pieces reflect the overall design theme that you have selected.

Next, start looking. It can be a lot of fun to search for items for your home. There is a thrill one gets when looking for art and antique pieces. You never know what fabulous and exciting items you may find in your journeys. Antiques have stories behind them. When you purchase a piece for your home you are giving it a new life, a new story.

A very important idea to keep in mind when selecting antique pieces is the quality of the item. Quality not quantity is extremely important. Quality pieces have fantastic detailing and fine craftsmanship. It is those details and fine craftsmanship that give antiques their interest and artistic flare, and in turn adds life and vibrancy to any space which they are placed.

When arranging your art and antiques, select the larger pieces to place first, such as sofa, tables, credenza, or large paintings. They will define the layout of the room and help you discover where to place that focal point item. If you have a collection or group of similar items, it is always better to place them together in one area of the room. This gives greater significance to the collection. Lastly, use an editing eye when placing your items. Do not crowd a space with too many antiques

items. Key pieces placed thoughtfully in a room can make it more inviting and aesthetically pleasing to the eye.

As an interior designer I enjoy incorporating fine art and antiques into a room. They can bring a sense of history and sophistication to any area of your home. Fine art and antiques add an additional layer of character, texture and interest. They are a wonderful way to personalize your home and greatly enhance the overall design of a space. Remember, always buy the pieces that you love, for they will bring years of enjoyment to your home.

Jennifer Fanelli has been designing and decorating for as long as she can remem-

ber. She turned her love and enthusiasm for interior design into a successful business. Signature Design Creations is an interior design firm that specializes in residential, commercial and yacht interiors. Jennifer creates interiors that are sophisticated, timeless and very livable. She works hand and hand with all of her clients to create interiors that are distinctly different and unique. With choice fabrics, furnishing, architectural elements, antiques and fine artworks she has crafted interiors that truly reflect her client's ideals and taste.

Jennifer also travels to Europe on a yearly basis for new ideas and artistic stimulation, to incorporate into her interior design schemes.

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Signature Design Creations is an interior design firm that specializes in residential, commercial and yacht interiors. Jennifer Fanelli is an allied member of the American Society for Interior Design (ASID) and the International Interior Design Association (IIDA). She graduated from Philadelphia University and holds a Bachelors of Science degree in Interior Design, with a minor in Art History.

*Surround yourself with the things you love*

Experience your desired atmosphere. Using strong architectural detailing, innovative application of materials and creative space planning we create your signature look. From custom designed cabinetry, wall finishes and window treatments, to fine furnishings, art and antiques we craft interior spaces that are truly personal and livable. Let us transform your interior visions into reality.



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For a full interior design consultation contact Jennifer Fanelli  
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