



SPACES

For the love of fine things

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While January was the kick-off to renew after the holidays and the crush of the shorter days and end-of-the-year frenzy, February continues that renewal and prepares our homes for restorative comfort, productivity and connection.

Red roses and pink hearts, chocolates and romance – February is LOVE month. Love is a precious commodity. In a life well lived – a life well-loved - we find contentment, appreciation, joy, inner peace, and restore our world in preparation for a new spring soon to come!



Vintage lead hand-cut crystal decanters, fruit bowl, and vases with sterling silver candlesticks and bud vase. Some family pieces, others found.

We learn as we move forward and cleanse our minds and our homes, that there is a balance between rest and work – chores and reprieve. In this

quiet time, we can focus on what is important, lasting, intrinsic in its value to our lives. Reflecting on what brought us to this place and who preceded us, realizing that we are part of a complex series of people, actions, events and consequences that make us who we are is worth considering. And if we sit quietly, we might realize why.

Every day is a gift and if we pause to notice, there is beauty all around us. My neighbor was nibbling on a piece of pastry one morning last week when she answered her front door. She grinned and pressed her finger to her lips as she swallowed and said “Oh you caught me mid chew – but look – this plate is from my grandmother’s china. Isn’t it cute?” and I said, “It’s beautiful and so special.” And I meant it, from someplace deep down inside.

To have the privilege of holding something that was part of a home-life, generations in the past, is precious. To know that, despite its fragility, it is intact in your hands means everyone before you cared for and appreciated it for sentimental reasons and/or reasons that brought joy.

Even if you have been passed a piece of damaged goods – a chipped vase, or a painting



Two different French Limoges patterns, both featuring their fine white china detailed by hand with 22-karat gold leaf. The classic designs mix well together and are just as classic and trending today as they were decades ago.



Mixing antique luminaires of crystal, metal structure and marble bases with contemporary votives of Orrefors crystal, Vietri ruffled platter with gold metallic detailing, a glass trifle bowl and a rustic pottery vase - an eclectic mix.

with a blemish or scratch on the frame, these are details reflecting an incident that evidently did not destroy the meaning of the object. Its value went beyond its perfect appearance. There is love there. There are so many stories there, if only these things could speak.

We find treasures – other people’s treasures - as we haunt thrift shops and antique stores, yard sales and

estate sales...and these too have innumerable stories to tell. It is wonderful to have them appreciated by a new family if not the generational ancestral chain from which they originated.

But imagine the real sense of connection when you have pieces from your very family enjoyed by your parents, grandparents, great grandparents... how far back might some of these pieces go that you find yourself looking at, considering, and holding in your very hands.

We live in a disposable world of instant gratification and replacement. We are losing the craftspeople because we are losing the market that appreciates fine craft. For all that we hear about supporting artisans of all manner, do we practice that which is preached? I see people opting for mass-produced pieces to hang over their sofa and electroplated tableware and machine-cut glass rather than original art and family heirlooms of hand painted china and REAL gold leaf applied by skilled artisans from centuries old. I



William-Sonoma’s new collection of production tableware features geometric patterns mimicking classic European designs with a splash of lemons.

mentioned in a previous article that we should open those boxes and invite these old friends to our tables.

When you inherit something, you have a choice. Keep it, give it to a family member, offer it to a friend, or send it off for sale to strangers. There is a moment that once made to let it go cannot be retracted. Once you let it go – you have lost it and the history you may never know, but it holds its stories that are part of your history. This is a natural cleansing cycle for some things and an unfortunate, sad, disposition for others.

Home is the place where we gather with family and friends, and in solitary times we enjoy being surrounded by meaningful details that evoke memories and introspective thought. The beauty, joy and comfort, derived from appreciating people and things, memories and thoughts of future plans for generations to come, is love.




Your Neighbor,




Patti Harrell Hoech

Licensed Interior Designer
To ask Patti a question please scan the QR code!

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