

It's not secondhand – it's recycled

Find any style and fit any budget, too

By Patricia Bathurst

You're going to do it. You're committed. You are a fully engaged, 21st-century, environmentally aware person, and you know that furnishing your brand new eco-sensitive home should reflect your awareness and the intentions of the builder.

On the other hand, you've spent years cultivating a look and style in your home – you want to shed the college dorm or mix-and-match junk.

While you're certainly not averse to a furniture and accessory-buying binge, you've noticed that much of the furniture and décor fashioned organically



Red Modern Furniture

Admire a '70s chair at Red Modern Furniture.

from sustainable wood tends to have a style that just isn't you.

Here's a solution that gives you points on the environmental awareness scale and may save you a few dollars, too.

Consider recycled furniture.

Like pre-owned cars that a generation ago were called "used," recycled furniture is also known by other labels. Remember, one man's secondhand chest is another's vintage, retro or even antique armoire.

"Older furniture is often constructed in a smaller scale, and re-use of previously owned furniture is a wonderful way to give new life to it," said Sarah Greene, owner of The Greene Room, an interior-design service specializing in environmentally focused design.

Multitude of fashion eras

Even better, recycled furniture comes in every style and reflects a multitude of fashion eras, quality and prices. Genuine antique pieces are the ultimate in recycled furniture.

"Whatever era you're focusing on," Greene said, "it's helpful to start with one or two pieces to work around. I'd suggest that



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At European Home you might find this confiture jar from Provence (left), an Italian Etruscan urn and a new green footed fruit bowl rest on a French antique walnut buffet.



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Find an antique Florentine glass-doored cabinet (above), and a 19th-century French walnut armoire with smaller painted chests at European Home.



Red Modern Furniture

Check out a magazine rack at Red Mountain Furniture.

people do a little research, too. Find pictures of rooms from the era, so you know what the entire room looked like."

At the same time, she said, you can mix pieces. "I like mixing styles or eras a little. It's a fresher, more unique look."

Jon Douglas, co-owner of Figs, a recycled furniture store in Phoenix, said his furniture "reflects many looks, from Asian to rustic to French antique. But every piece is either recycled,

created from recycled or salvaged wood, or made from sustainable or salvaged materials," he said.

A sampling from Douglas' inventory reveals salvaged doors made into three-panel screens, antique doors turned into armoires, and newly made seagrass and bamboo chairs (sustainable materials). He has frames made from reclaimed magazine overruns with the pages hand-twisted into frames,

decorative roosters and chickens made of salvaged tin and painted accessory signs using reclaimed cabinet doors.

If you prefer modern looks, Red Modern Furniture has two floors of collector-quality ultra-modern furniture and accessories. The store also has a corner with vintage/retro clothing and accessories.

At European Home, Kay Massaro has a collection of somewhat rustic Western and

Northern European antiques (think Italy to Denmark). Check the tags because European Home carries reproductions, too.

If you're looking for screaming deals on recycled furniture, check all four My Sister's Attic locations. Kerry Bedwell, manager of My Sister's Attic on Camelback, said, "Every store has a different style." Look for chic retro and contemporary

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Engle marks sale of 10,000th home

Engle Homes had its first closing in the Valley in October

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This extra-large contemporary sectional sold in less than a day at My Sister's Attic on Camelback Road.

At European Home, check out an antique Danish armoire (above) and an antique Swiss chest.

Where to look

The Valley is home to dozens of antique and resale stores with an array of furniture and home accessories to fit any home style and budget.

Here are a few places to get you started:

Figs Home & Garden
4501 N. 7th Ave.
Phoenix
(602) 279-1443

European Home
1030 E. Camelback Road
Phoenix,
(602) 263-0198
www.europeanhome.us

Red Modern Furniture
201 E. Camelback Road
Phoenix
(602) 256-9620
www.redmodernfurniture.com

My Sister's Attic
Four locations
www.mysisterscloset.com:
• 2027 E. Camelback Road
Phoenix
(602) 957-2799
• 6208 N. Scottsdale Road
Scottsdale
(480) 607-4303
• 23417 N. Pima Road
Scottsdale
(480) 515-9708
• 23359 N. Pima Road
Scottsdale
(480) 473-0228

The Greene Room
7107 E. Thomas Road
Scottsdale
(602) 622-6481
www.thegreencroomaz.com

Recycled furniture is popular new trend

— **SECONDHAND**, from Page NHA8

on Camelback, traditional and somewhat European furniture at Lincoln Village, and large, Tuscan or French farmhouse-feel pieces at Pinnacle Peak stores.

Is it a deal or junk?

Evaluating some pieces can be tricky. When should you decide that a little paint or stain will make your investment well worth it?

"First," said Sarah Greene, of The Greene Room, "check for the manufacturer. That will tell you a lot about the quality."

Research the manufacturer online, at the library or by asking an expert.

"You can refinish, you can repair, you can paint," said furniture maven Jon Douglas. "As long as it's wood, and/or well-made, it's worth the investment."

Some things to remember:

- You can rarely repair lami-

nates, and paint will not adhere well.

- Pull the drawers out. Particle-board backs and sides will not hold up over time.

- Pick it up. "I was ready to buy a mirror that seemed framed in railroad ties. It weighed three pounds. There's a lot of Styrofoam and resin," Douglas said.

- Check the joints. You want solid construction, not staples or glue.

- Use your fingernail. Fiberboard and chipboard will "bend."

- Make sure all the pieces are available, with the exception of replaceable hardware.

- Upholstery can be replaced, but remember, you may also need to replace springs and padding.

You'll find two floors of ultra-modern furniture, including chairs like these (below), at Red Modern Furniture.



Red Modern Furniture

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623-972-5005

3. MEDALLION AT RANCHO GABRIELA *Surprise*
Reems Road, south of Cactus Road
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Heritage - From the mid \$100s
Regal - From the upper \$100s
623-337-5628
Sterling - From the mid \$200s
623-444-6553
Signature - From the upper \$200s
623-242-6925

SOUTHWEST VALLEY

5. VILLAGE AT TRES RIOS LANDING
Avondale
Dysart Road, south of Buckeye Road
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13. VISION AT GRAYSON SQUARE
Phoenix
27th Avenue, north of Southern Avenue
Models open!
New floor plans!
From the mid \$100s
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14. VILLAGE AT DESERT BREEZE
Phoenix
7th Avenue, north of Baseline Road
Live near downtown!
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602-232-2853

15. SILVA MOUNTAIN *Phoenix*
27th Avenue and Baseline Road
Mosaic - From the upper \$100s
Models open!
Classics - From the upper \$100s
Gated community!
Regal - From the upper \$100s
Models open!
602-268-3667

EAST VALLEY

16. TOWNE SQUARE AT DESERT VILLAGE *Mesa*
Hawes Road and Broadway Road
Models open!
From the mid \$100s
480-357-2959

17. VILLAGE AT TOWNE CENTRE
Gilbert
Gilbert Road and Warner Road
Downtown Gilbert!
From the upper \$100s
480-632-0602

18. VILLAGE AT SPECTRUM *Gilbert*
Val Vista Road and Frye Road
Last chance!
From the upper \$100s
480-782-8861