

JOY SABLE GOES IN SEARCH OF UNUSUAL HOME ADORNMENTS WITH THE PATINA OF HISTORY

Heirlooms in hiding?

THE POPULARITY of television programmes such as *Antiques Roadshow* demonstrates our passion for all kinds of objects from the past, whether they are paintings, jewellery or pieces of furniture. Watching people queue patiently to find out whether they own something worth pounds or pennies makes fascinating viewing.

The generally accepted definition of "antique" is something at least 100 years old. But being old does not automatically mean your possession is valuable, of course – its condition, rarity and provenance all have a bearing on its worth.

Now many familiar 20th century items are recognised as design classics and are becoming collectible.

Founded by the established dealers Christian Quinlan and Philip Thomas, The Cabinet Rooms (www.thecabinetrooms.com) is an auction

house that specialises in affordable, modern design goods.

It hosts selling events of highly collectible items and exciting new finds, making the experience enjoyable – whether you are buying or selling.

If you cannot attend a Cabinet Rooms auction in person, there is www.thesaleroom.com, the online auction hosting site.

If you have items you might want to auction, you can email images to info@thecabinetrooms.com for a free valuation.

So don't discard those once popular 1960s G-Plan dining tables and chairs that you may have grown up with – the commonplace pieces of yesterday have become the classics of today.

Tracking down items for your collection is addictive and you may soon be setting off on regular antique-hunting expeditions.

One place to check out is a new antiques hub that has opened in an old aircraft hangar outside Tetbury



Lorlords Antiques, Gloucestershire: part of the pleasure is spotting a treasure

in Gloucestershire. Lorlords (www.lorlordsantiques.com) at Baddow Airfield extends across 16,000 sq ft, showcasing original antiques and decorative works of art from all over Europe.

Within the hangar, 19 antiques dealers have their own stands displaying objects ranging from 17th century to the contemporary.

Lesley Ferguson of Lorlords says:

"More than ever, discerning individuals are searching for one-off, interesting pieces to decorate their homes.

"However, without the time and specialist knowledge, finding those exceptional pieces used to be a challenge.

"Now by bringing together the collective 'eyes' and expertise of 19 diverse dealers, we are making that

search much easier, as well as more enjoyable."

Whether you are looking to furnish a large house, a tiny period cottage or an open-plan city loft apartment – or simply hoping to find the odd piece to add a dramatic focal point to an existing scheme – a trip to an antiques show or fair will probably solve your design problems.

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