

Everything Old Is New Again

IN A CULTURE RIFE with mass-produced, shoddily made products, truly unique handiwork and original ideas are hard to come by. Mark Naylon—part furniture designer, part antiques dealer—offers a new perspective to counter that phenomenon in home décor. **Modern Living Supplies**, his showroom, fuses Midcentury Modern antiques with custom-designed furnishings, exploring a compelling new frontier in interior design.

Naylon, who's built an extensive network of contacts within the antiques community, is selective with his inventory. He's also kept up with the times. "The flea-market culture has changed—there aren't many people up at 3 A.M. [to line up at antiques sales] anymore," he says, explaining how the Internet and easy worldwide communication have turned antiques dealing into a simpler, more targeted process. Pieces he acquires date from the forties to the seventies and include American, Scandinavian, Italian, and Brazilian design. With the constant turnover, however, it's not easy to keep a well-stocked showroom.

Which brings us to Naylon's main entrepreneurial focus: His custom-made designs. Drawing inspiration from the vintage pieces he buys, Naylon creates distinctive works tailored to customers' specific wants and needs. His approach consists of merging the appeal of acquired period pieces with the functionality



of new design. If a client is looking for a flat-screen TV cabinet, for instance, but wants the style to match his home's current Old World theme, Naylon will personally conceive a piece to fill the need.

"Providing options is a matter of necessity," he says. "A customer's preference for a particular piece, either vintage or made to order, is ultimately a compromise between what he wants and what's available. The difference is that, while vintage is specific, design is endless." We're buying it. *Modern Living Supplies*, 142 Henry Street, 646-373-1579; modernlivingsupplies.com.—SUSAN WAITS