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We Find It Locally So You Can Buy It Locally

SOMETHING OLD

The onset of fall sparks the desire to do a little pumpkin carving and apple picking—and to go antiquing. “The most important thing with antiquing is to go out and have fun with it,” says interior designer Barbara Eberlein, president of Philadelphia’s Eberlein Design Consultants. “It’s the same goal for everybody: Find out what pieces speak to you, what you want to live with.” Here are some tips to help you get started.



RESEARCH FIRST. “Absolutely, positively, the only way to know what you’re buying is to do your homework,” Eberlein says. “Learn by reading, looking, asking dealers questions. When you’ve looked at a thousand Louis XV chairs, the fake will stand out.”

WORK WITH DEALERS. Pick their brains, Eberlein advises. They want to share their expertise and educate you. “Bring photos of other items in the room you’re looking to purchase an antique for,” she says. “That way, the dealer can help you find other items that will work with the design of the space.”

FIND REAL DEALS. Every piece for sale at a show advertised as “vetted” has been evaluated by a panel of inde-

pendent dealers to ensure its authenticity. “You can buy with confidence at vetted antique shows,” says Eberlein. Atlantique City, held at the AC Convention Center October 15-16, is one such show. That doesn’t make non-vetted shows off-limits. “One easy way to determine the age of a piece is if it’s stamped or signed by the maker, but that won’t always happen. That’s when you have to rely on your research to help you,” says Eberlein. “If a dealer tells you it’s made ‘in the style of,’ it could have been made at any time.”