

HOW TO CURATE AN ARTFUL HOME

A thoughtful approach to creating a home that tells a story—layered with meaning, history, and personal expression.



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Creating a curated home isn't a matter of filling a space with décor—it's about building a foundation that reflects your soul, your values, and your passions. Your home should not just house your belongings; it should feel like an extension of who you are. When crafting a home that feels personal, remember that the most meaningful spaces are those that evolve naturally over time, blending the old with the new, the cherished with the functional.



Start with a Strong Foundation: Crafting a Personal Aesthetic

- **Anchor Your Space with Timeless Materials**

Start with materials that transcend trends. Look for natural, enduring elements that age gracefully, becoming more beautiful with every passing year. Materials such as solid wood, stone, marble, metals with patina, and handwoven textiles will form the backbone of your home. These are the materials that connect us to the earth and history, and their imperfections and variations tell a story that manufactured items simply cannot.

★ **Curator's Tip:** When selecting materials, choose pieces with tactile qualities—something you want to touch. For example, opt for a weathered wood table that feels like it has witnessed years of family dinners or a marble countertop that tells the tale of craftsmanship and time. Over time, these materials acquire a rich patina that enhances their beauty rather than diminishes it.



- **Mixing Periods and Styles: Creating a Layered, Lived-In Look**

A curated home should feel like a collection, a carefully gathered array of pieces discovered over time. Don't be afraid to mix periods, styles, and influences—that's where the magic happens. Imagine an 18th-century French cabinet next to a mid-century modern sofa. This contrast creates visual interest and allows each piece to stand out while also contributing to the harmony of the space.

The key is to mix with intention, allowing form and function to guide you. A vintage piece might offer that unique character you can't find in something mass-produced, while a modern piece can ground the room in clean lines and freshness. The goal is to let your space evolve naturally, with each addition speaking to the history of your tastes and travels.

✨ **Curator's Tip:** Invest in pieces that are timeless in design—these are the items that will have longevity, moving with you through different homes or life stages. A vintage mirror, a classic leather chair, or a crafted wooden table can work with nearly any décor style, yet still hold their own as statement pieces.



- **Prioritize Handmade and Bespoke Pieces**

The soul of your home lies in the unique, handcrafted objects—pieces that speak to the artistry of the makers who created them. These items add depth and meaning to your space, offering more than just utility. When you choose handmade, you're not only supporting artisans but also acquiring one-of-a-kind creations that reflect the heart of their makers.

When sourcing, look for artisan-crafted textiles, bespoke furniture, and vintage treasures that stand apart from the mass-produced offerings flooding today's markets. Each piece holds a story—whether it's the handwoven rug from a small family-run studio in Morocco or the handcrafted ceramic vase made by a potter who specializes in ancient glazing techniques.

✨ **Curator's Tip:** Find pieces that carry a sense of craftsmanship. Whether it's a hand-stitched pillow, a custom-made table, or hand-blown glassware, these items will not only enhance your space visually but also bring it to life with authenticity and warmth.



Sourcing with Intention: Where to Find Meaningful Pieces

A home that feels personal is a collection of objects sourced thoughtfully over time. These are some of my favorite places to find items with history, artistry, and lasting quality.

ANTIQUE & VINTAGE FINDS

◆ **Local Antique Shops, markets, & Estate Sales** – The most extraordinary finds often come from independent dealers and estate sales where every object has a past life.

✦ **Curator's Tip:** Prioritize shops specializing in European antiques, hand-carved furniture, and unique architectural salvage. Seek aged patina, hand-applied finishes, and natural wear—true markers of history.

◆ **Etsy** – A carefully curated global marketplace for affordable vintage finds, handmade décor, and rare artisan crafts. Great for one-of-a-kind paintings, handwoven textiles, and antique decorative objects.

✦ **Curator's Tip:** Use search terms like “antique oil painting with provenance” or “handmade ceramic vessel” to narrow your results.

◆ **Chairish** – A design-forward platform for high-end vintage furniture, art, and décor, curated with an eye for quality and craftsmanship.

✦ **Curator's Tip:** When shopping for investment pieces, look for dovetail joinery, hand-carved details, and solid wood construction for longevity.

ART & CUSTOM PIECES

◆ **The French Art Shop** – A refined collection of hand-picked vintage European artwork, from romantic 19th-century oils to expressive modernist works.

✦ **Curator's Tip:** To create a collected-over-time look, mix small-scale portraiture, landscapes, and still lifes in different frames and styles.

◆ **Uprise Art** – A platform for **original works from emerging artists**, offering both contemporary and classic-inspired pieces at accessible prices.

✦ **Curator's Tip:** Pair bold contemporary art with antique furniture for a compelling contrast that adds depth to a space.

◆ **Custom Upholsterers** – Restoration is the key to breathing new life into well-made furniture. Work with artisans specializing in historical techniques and heritage fabrics.

✦ **Curator's Tip:** Opt for natural stuffing (horsehair, wool batting), hand-stitched details, and classic upholstery techniques for heirloom quality.

TEXTILES & RUGS

◆ **Loloi Rugs / Joon Loloi** – A perfect blend of heritage craftsmanship and modern sensibility, featuring earthy tones and Persian-inspired motifs.

✨ **Curator's Tip:** For a layered look, place a flatweave or vintage rug over a natural fiber base to add depth and texture.

◆ **TwentyThird by Deanne** – Thoughtfully curated artisan textiles and home décor with a timeless, curated-over-time feel.

✨ **Curator's Tip:** Seek out hand-dyed linens and embroidered fabrics to add warmth and depth to a space.

◆ **Lulu and Georgia** – A modern take on elevated, design-forward rugs and textiles that balance contemporary and classic influences.

✨ **Curator's Tip:** Washed, faded patterns give rugs an effortless, lived-in appeal that never feels too new or trendy.

FURNITURE & HOME ACCESSORIES

◆ **Perigold** – A high-end marketplace specializing in bespoke craftsmanship and heirloom-quality furniture.

✨ **Curator's Tip:** Look for solid wood frames, handcrafted finishes, and timeless silhouettes to invest in pieces that last generations.

◆ **DeKor Living** – A boutique featuring vintage and artisan-crafted furniture with European influences and a refined aesthetic.

✨ **Curator's Tip:** Opt for organic finishes like limewash, hand-rubbed wax, or oil-based stains for an authentic aged look.

◆ **Rejuvenation** – The premier source for historically accurate lighting and hardware, blending period charm with contemporary function.

✨ **Curator's Tip:** Choose aged brass, antique pewter, or unlacquered finishes to let metals naturally patina over time.

◆ **Zara Home** – A mid-range option offering European-inspired linens, sculptural ceramics, and refined everyday décor.

✨ **Curator's Tip:** Their linen collections are particularly high-quality and ideal for achieving an understated, effortless elegance.

LOCAL ARTISANS & CUSTOM DESIGNERS

◆ **Bespoke Woodworkers & Metalworkers** – Commissioning a handcrafted dining table, built-ins, or sculptural lighting ensures uniqueness and authenticity.

✨ **Curator's Tip:** Work with artisans who use traditional joinery methods like mortise-and-tenon joints for heirloom-quality construction.

Final Thought: The Beauty of a Collected Home

A well-designed home isn't about decorating—it's about curating. It's about surrounding yourself with pieces that carry history, artistry, and craftsmanship. An antique rug worn soft by time, a hand-thrown ceramic vase, a sculptural chair with carved detailing—each piece a chapter in the story of your space.

There's no rush in collecting—the best homes evolve over time. Let your space be a reflection of what you love, the places you've been, and the stories you want to tell.