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Pro Spotlight: How to Weave Beloved Pieces Into a New Design

You don't have to trash older treasures when you redecorate. A New York City designer shares how to work them in

Who: Holly Burguières of Prop Positions

Where: New York City

In her own words: "I like taking found objects or legacy items and giving them new purpose by creating a new environment and letting them sing."

Whether they're trinkets from travels or family heirlooms, certain objects may have strong sentimental value. If yours don't fit the style of your current space, don't despair. You can find a home for these pieces by working with themes and using them throughout the room.

"The most important thing is to edit; find the one thing you love and use that as the starting point," says Holly Burguières, who owns interior design firm Prop Positions in New York City. "I look for ways to showcase the most important pieces as focal points, and I build around them in my layout."

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Woman of the world. Burguières has lived, traveled and studied around the world since she was a child. She moved to Mexico after graduating college, and began exporting fabrics and accessories to New York. Eventually Burguières opened her own showroom in the Big Apple, and used her eye for design to start her own design firm in 1994.



Family ties. As a child, Burguières was surrounded by the old-world aesthetics of New Orleans. Both her father and her aunt had a taste for eccentric and historic spaces. “I was so taken by my aunt’s taste and exquisitely curated collections that I knew I wanted to create beautiful interiors,” she says.

Ready to find homes for your treasured objects in a new space? Read on for Burguières’ tips.

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1. Change the Finish

If you have a large or bold object you want to include in your home, consider giving it a new finish and then building the room design around it.

Burguières ebonized the Michoacán column from Mexico seen here; the dark finish complements the Millbrook home’s flooring and several other pieces of furniture.

“We put the piece at a point in the room where it feels like an anchor, and everything revolves around it,” Burguières says. “It’s a very daring piece because the cottage is so small; I had to make it work by giving it a finish so everything has a relationship.”

See more of this project

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2. Create a Collection

One way to help a decorative piece suit a space is to surround it with similar objects. The owners of a Jackson Hole, Wyoming, home fell in love with the large wire sphere seen here, but were struggling with its placement.

“The ball by itself just didn’t do it for me,” Burguières says. “It needed to have relationships with other objects. So I made a montage with all of these other balls of different shapes and textures.” The wire sphere is still the



largest, so it acts as a focal point.

See more of this project



3. Give It Space

Sometimes the best way to make a bold piece fit is to give it space to breathe. Clients on the Upper East Side wanted to incorporate the vivid pink ottoman seen here, but it had the potential to overwhelm their living room. “The ottoman was so bright that we needed to provide some relief with the white sofa,” Burguières says. “Without this relief, you wouldn’t have been able to see anything.”

More: For more information on Holly Burguières and examples of her work, visit

Prop Positions’ Houzz profile.

This story was written by the Houzz Sponsored Content team.

