

# Gardens Living

An exclusive magazine serving Evergrene, Sanctuary, Crystal Pointe, Frenchman's Creek, Frenchman's Reserve, Frenchman's Landing, The Isles, Steeplechase, Paloma, San Michele



The Reeds  
Family Fun  
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Best Version Media

Cover photo by Lynn Studios

## The Art of the Find



By JoAnn Munro, ASID

Bargain hunting? Where can you find the best deals? Many options are available today, and the most accessible is the internet. But buyer beware: a picture can be worth a thousand words – until the item is shipped to your home

and the color is not what you imagined, or the quality is not what you expected. Returning purchases can be a nightmare, and in the end, you may wish you had deleted that “great deal” email and bought from a more reliable source.

Bidding for bargains and buying at auction houses or websites can be effective and surprisingly affordable options for finding well-made pieces loaded with character and value – especially if you’re looking for mid-century Modern, French, or Western memorabilia. You may also find American-made vintage Baker, Kittinger, Kindell, or Berkey & Gay.

The most effective way to shop, however, is to visit places where you can touch, feel and see what you are buying.



Keep in mind that retail furniture stores typically sell at double or triple the wholesale cost, so be sure to look for sales or buy floor samples if you’re hoping for a bargain.

Bazaars, on the other hand, can be a terrific source of flea market chic finds, and treasure hunters can nab excellent design buys. But some rules do apply: Arrive early for the best offers, go later for the best deals, and carry cash for the biggest discounts. Haggling or “hondling” is expected. Some people are drawn by bargains, others for people-watching, while some simply enjoy the sheer fun of the hunt. But we all have one thing in common: Like old fishermen, we’ll probably end up telling a tale about the prize that got away.

Consignment stores, yet another potential bargain source, sell for the owner of the item at a profit; then the two share the proceeds. The longer the item is in the store, the more it is marked down. The split varies by consignment store. If the original owner leaves the item in the store at the end of the agreement, then the store takes possession and can sell for full profit or donate to a charity. Regular resale stores purchase outright and resell. *Charity* resale stores are my favorite place to donate items since all sales benefit the charity and help fund their projects. Estate sales, garage sales and other private sales are also shopping options.

But believe it or not, interior designers are truly the BEST source for researching new/vintage/unique home furnishings while keeping your budget in mind. As designers, we keep on top of trends, and we know quality and where and how to seek out “The Art of the Find”!

Making every dollar count can be an essential strategy for furnishing a home. Have your interior designer on your team to take you shopping. (Hourly consultation fees may apply.)

*If you would like a list of Florida auction houses, bazaars, consignment shops, and resale stores, email me at [munro@saintdes.com](mailto:munro@saintdes.com). Let me be your source for today’s and tomorrow’s interiors!* ■

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