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CURRENTS



RUTH FREMSON/THE NEW YORK TIMES

FURNITURE

A Custom-Fit Curio Table

▼ Bernhard's Curio table is the furniture equivalent of a pair of jeans: classic and essential, yet customizable. There is a standard wood version in walnut or maple, but more-adventurous types can choose from a range of colors like orange and lime.

Custom tops are also available, in materials like Corian and leather. And the table comes in three sizes: 19- and 22-inch-diameter versions with three legs, and a 42-inch-diameter version with four.

"It's natural to want to create the latest,

greatest stand-out item," said the designer, Harry Washington, who worked with his wife, Claudia, in making the table. "But sometimes it's more important to design something that can both stand alone and blend well."

The Curio tables range from \$560 to \$1,600 for standard wood and painted finishes; custom tops are extra.

Bernhardt Design, 58 West 40th Street, (212) 997-6600, bernhardtdesign.com.

STEPHEN MILIOTI



OPEN

Liz O'Brien Invites Shoppers to Linger

▲ Liz O'Brien's new showroom, her third in 17 years, covers 2,400 square feet with chocolate-brown lacquered floors in a ground-level space on East 61st Street. "People who come here sit down and hang out for a while, and on Fifth Avenue it wasn't like that," said Ms. O'Brien, who specializes in 20th-century decorative arts. "I thought it was a sign of the times, that people were too busy. But now I'm thinking it might be the space itself."

The building once housed the Karl Springer showroom. As it happens, Mr. Springer is a favorite of Ms. O'Brien's

— at any given time, she has several of his pieces for sale. She also tries to stock "unique pieces by architects and designers for specific commissions," she said.

"We recently bought some pieces the French decorating firm Jansen did for Jayne Wrightsman's London flat and some poufs from an interior Parish-Hadley did for a great Park Avenue apartment."

Liz O'Brien, 306 East 61st Street, (212) 755-3800 or lizobrien.com.

RIMA SUKI

ONLINE

Getting the Goods From Europe

► Those seeking antique textiles from Europe can save the plane fare by visiting the online retailer Textiletrunk.com. The site is run by Wendy Lewis, who lives in Vermont and has spent more than a decade researching textiles at European flea markets and the Victoria & Albert Museum in London.

After a recent trip to Europe, Ms. Lewis returned with what she said is the largest and rarest selection of textiles she has ever found — including hemp, flax and linen blends in hundreds of neutral tones, as well as classic striped patterns (vintage grain sacks, shown, are \$45 to \$120). There is also French ticking and toile, and florals and prints from the 18th and 19th centuries. "These textiles were hand-woven and made to last over 100 years," Ms. Lewis said. "No two pieces are alike." DONNA PAUL



SHOWS

Nantucket Awaits 22 Antiques Dealers

► The 33rd annual Nantucket Antiques Show, July 30 to Aug. 2, is scheduled to have 22 dealers from the United States and Europe, including William Nickerson Antiques, which will show 18th- and 19th-century furniture and Shaia Oriental rugs, and the Silver Fund, a London firm specializing in Georg Jensen silver. Phoebe Booth Antiques, a Manhattan firm that sells English furniture and decorative items, will show a number of pieces, including an Arts and Crafts ebonized fireside chair, circa 1890, at right, that has its "original woven rush seat," Ms. Booth said (it is listed at \$2,850).

Proceeds from the show, to be held at Nantucket High School, will go to the Nantucket Fireman's Association. Tickets for the preview party on July 29 are \$50; admission to the show is \$10. For information or to reserve party tickets: (757) 220-0400.

PHAEDRA BROWN

GARDENS

European Varietals (Planters, That Is)

► The concrete planters that were introduced in European gardens in the 1930s and remained popular for decades were coveted for their sensuous, sculptural forms — particularly the well-known hourglass — and handkerchief-style containers. Original examples of these and other pots made between the 1930s and '70s are sold at Inner Gardens, a nursery and landscape-design company with three stores in the Los Angeles area.

Made from a limestone and concrete mix that is strong but lightweight, the pots "fit perfectly into the modern design movement," said Stephen Block, the store's owner, who is importing them from France and Belgium. "They focus on basic elements — materials and shape — rather than unnecessary add-ons. Simple is beautiful."

Most range in size from around 12 to 42 inches high and are priced from \$595 to \$2,450. Information: innergardens.com.

STEPHEN MILIOTI

