

Everything old is NEW again

Professional Furniture Restoration offers advantages over buying new

by Sean Patrick Sullivan, Special to The Independent & Free Press

Think twice before you buy that new piece of furniture.

So says Scott Page, a refinishing-and-restoration expert at the Georgetown-based Furniture Renew.

"They don't make furniture like they used to, and when they do, it's way too expensive for most people."

For this reason, and many others, Page recommends that do-it-yourself decorators take a second look at the items they already own. They might just be ripe for renewal.

Not sure you have something worth renewing? Here are some questions to ask yourself.

Do I want to throw my money away? Of course not. But that's what people do when buying cheap flat-pack furniture from big-box retailers. Such items only last a few years, requiring replacement over and over again. Older, well-cared-for pieces, on the other hand, can last a lifetime

and beyond, saving money in the long run.

Does this piece of furniture have history? Heirlooms inherited from parents or relatives, even if they need work, are worth saving for future generations.

Does this piece of furniture need repair? Many professional refinishers make repairs as part of their mandate. They might even be able to locate or duplicate missing hardware and/or millwork.

Does this piece of furniture look out of date? Restoration experts don't just sand and paint. They can remove or replace trim, handles, and more, creating a more antique or modern look, whatever suits your home, taste, and lifestyle.

Could this be an opportunity for me to get creative? When you get furniture refinished, as opposed to buying something off the shelf, you get to customize and personalize to your heart's content: colour, hardware, and everything

in between. Got an old, fussy Victorian dining set? It can look edgy and new in high-gloss white lacquer. How about a plain, boring dresser? All it takes is some dark espresso stain, brushed-nickel embellishments, and contrasting trim to become a conversation piece radiating luxury and glamour.

How am I impacting the environment? Being green means reducing consumption, reusing what you already have, and recycling what you don't want anymore. Professional furniture refinishing and restoration makes it possible for you to save money, preserve resources, create heirlooms, and beautify your home with something customized to your unique standards.

For more information on furniture refinishing and restoration visit: www.furniturerenew.ca



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