



FLOWER GOES PICKING
WITH

ALLISON HENNESSY

If you can dream about it, you can probably find it at **Scott Antique Market** in Atlanta. Interior designer Allison Hennessy takes us on her monthly hunt and shares some scoop along the way





CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Hennessy kept this dining room casual with a painted table and cheerful upholstered chairs but added sophisticated accents such as the lamps and mirror. • The designer shops for Louis Philippe mirrors from a trusted source at Scott's. • She liked the brass base and pulls on this \$60 pair of lamps. "At that bargain price, I could have them painted to suit the space if need be," she says.



ALTHOUGH STILL IN HER EARLY 30s, Atlanta interior designer Allison Hennessy has already made her mark in a crowded field, first working with boldface names such as Phoebe Howard and Meg Braff, and then opening her eponymous company in 2010. She's also been included on both *Traditional Home's* and *Southern Living's* lists of up-and-coming designers. Hennessy describes her style as tailored, edited, and classic wrapped in a modern sensibility. "I don't like a lot of frills or for anything to be too heavy or ornate," she says. "Instead I focus on the materials and textures to bring interest to a room." In that vein, the designer uses a lot of hand-painted and block-printed fabrics, sea grass, sisal, rattan, rich linen velvets, brass, and painted light fixtures. We love her fresh style, so we asked Hennessy to take us on a tour of Scott Antique Market in Atlanta, where design professionals and do-it-yourselfers vie for great deals on just about everything, from rugs and vintage fabrics to case goods and porcelain.

Here Hennessy shares some tips for navigating the vast monthly market.

WHEN: Scott's is open Thursday to Sunday

on the second week of every month. Go on Thursday or Friday if you're looking for specific pieces before they get picked over. If you're there just to browse and hope for a deal, you may want to wait until Saturday afternoon or Sunday. Dealers are usually more willing to negotiate because they don't want to load the unsold merchandise back on the truck. Come prepared with cash, checks, and credit cards because vendors vary on which methods of payment they accept.

WHERE: The market is in two buildings

PHOTOS BY LUCY SCHAEFFER (FAR LEFT AND NEXT SPREAD, LEFT) AND JAMES MERRELL (RIGHT)

"I look for authentic pieces with a beautiful finish and patina that happens with age."

— Allison Hennessy —



Above the fireplace in a New York apartment with great architectural details, Hennessy layered in a Louis Philippe mirror, curvy sconces, and blue-and-white ginger jars.



LEFT: Her client already had Asian accents in her Richmond, Virginia, home, so Hennessy chose the fretwork chandelier for the foyer. BELOW: She particularly liked the hardware on this antique chest spotted at Scott's. ABOVE: "The pagoda shape on this lantern is so whimsical. I would use it as is or perhaps paint it."



RIGHT: Hennessy searches for benches, as they are versatile and practical. "You can tuck them in just about anywhere. I look for interesting textures, finishes, and shapes," she says. BELOW LEFT: She also looks for smaller rugs at Scott's, which has both vintage and reproductions.



at the Atlanta Expo Centers. The North building is where I primarily shop because it has more antiques, rugs, fabrics, and other decorative items. The South building has more reproduction furniture in painted finishes and new upholstery.

WHY: This place has just about everything you can imagine, and it's very popular with decorators. In fact, some of the Miami Circle and Bennett Street antiques dealers have opened booths there. It's convenient because there's so much under one roof, and you can accomplish a lot in one visit. Many people think Scott's is only antiques and vintage items, but there are tons of new upholstery pieces brought down from North Carolina and reproduction Oushak rugs, for example. Partial rolls and pieces of beautiful new fabrics from ADAC are also part of the mix.

PREPARATION: Scott's is so huge; it can be overwhelming. I always come armed with a list of the specific items I'm looking for, along with all the room dimensions that I need, as well as the measurements of doorways. I find that the list keeps me on task and less likely to drift into random booths. That said,

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PHOTOS BY JAMES MERRELL (INTERIOR, OPPOSITE) AND EMILY FOLLOVILLI (INTERIORS, THIS PAGE)



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Among the botanical prints at Scott’s, Hennessy is drawn to ferns, which feel more modern to her. • Symmetry makes a statement in an Atlanta foyer. • In a sunny breakfast area in the same home, the designer chose oval-backed chairs. “One drawback about antique chairs,” she says, “is that they are often not scaled for today’s lifestyle, so do take that into account. You want to make sure that chairs used daily are comfortable.”

I don’t limit myself—I’m always open to surprises!
ARRIVAL: I suggest taking 30 minutes to an hour to scout and get the lay of the land, jotting down booth numbers or snapping a few photos of pieces that intrigue you. Yes, there is the possibility that something may slip away during your orientation, but you’ll probably feel more focused and confident after doing some scouting.
PRICING: The dealers do expect to negotiate, and you would be remiss not to try. However, every shopper has her own comfort level about this. I’m not particularly aggressive, but I always ask, “What’s your best price?” and go from there. (You may not

want to be dressed head to toe in designer clothes with a luxury handbag when you visit!) Sometimes, it’s a challenge trying to determine whether a piece is well priced for its age and condition. I often check auction websites on my phone to look for comparisons. However, if my client is excited about something (I text photos while I shop), it’s within the budget, and it’s the right size, I usually move forward as long as the price seems reasonable.

CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: Chairs with pretty curves are on the shopping list. “The curves soften the more angular pieces—coffee and end tables—that are often in a living room, such as this one in Greenwich,” says Hennessy. • The faux bois dining room chairs with the cane backs were a good value and would work in a more casual setting, she says. • She liked the weathered finish and fabric on this armchair.



ALLISON ACCESSORIZES

WHILE I USUALLY SHOP FOR LARGER PIECES when I go to Scott's, I try to allow some time to look for interesting accessories as well. I love trays—they're so versatile and great for holding collections or corralling bedside items. Interesting glasses can hold pencils or do double duty as vases. Scott's has lots of old silver and antique books

sold by the foot to fill up a big library if need be. I'm also a fan of antique boxes to put on mantels and elsewhere. And Scott's has a lot of fabrics like suzanis and pillows, often made with very high-end fabrics that were left over after a design project. You're sure to find something—maybe even too much—to brighten any room.

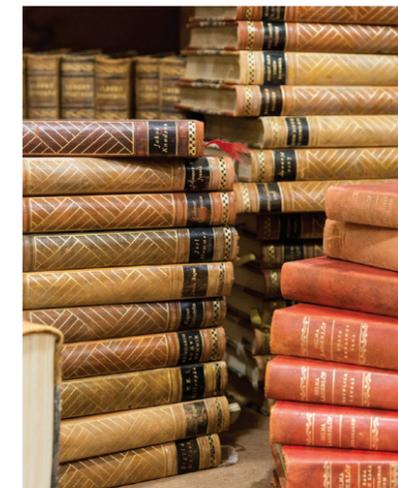


TOP: Patterns and textures pair beautifully in this living room, with reds and neutrals accented by blues and punctuated by fretwork armchairs and a midcentury painting. ABOVE: Hennessy often mixes reproduction and vintage pieces of blue-and-white export china, taking note of the color saturation and choosing finishes with a hand-painted quality.

HOLD POLICIES: If you've expressed serious interest in a piece, have measured it, and perhaps are waiting for confirmation from another person (in my case, the client), you can ask the dealer to hold the item for under an hour. Each dealer has her own policies, but it can't hurt to ask. The more often you attend the market, the more you'll get to know the dealers, and you can develop a rapport that may gain you some additional privileges.

GETTING IT HOME: If you have brought your own transportation, hail one of the many porters running around the show with their dolly trucks. Give them the booth numbers, and arrange for a place to meet. Bring cash, so that you can pay and tip accordingly. If you need to have items shipped, it's best to get a freight quote before you make your purchase, as it could affect the price you're willing to pay. Scott's works with several reputable companies who can give you pricing. The freight companies offer a discount for shipping multiple pieces, so the more you buy, the more you save on shipping, in case you need more motivation to shop! 🍷

INTERIOR PHOTO (TOP) BY LUCY SCHAEFFER



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