Old, but not Outmoded

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Today's fashionable interiors are featuring a modern version of the Italian lavabo of one hundred years ago.

A many-drawer spice chest makes a handy catch-all for paper clips, rubber bands, safety pins and other miscellaneous items.

Old-fashioned salt boxes become planter boxes for a homey kitchen when fitted with a metal liner.

An antique toast rack, originally designed to carry toast from pantry to serving room, can be used as a letter file.
not outmoded

THE MODERN HOMEMAKER with her creative imagination recognizes function and design for daily living. Antiques do fit in! They're not only objects of value and distinct character, but they're useful.

You can take the antique cast iron kettle, an “old witch’s” brewing pot, and make a stunning patio barbeque-grill for casual outdoor living. The kettle, midnight black, with three legs and a large bale handle, can be taken to a local machinist who can drill several holes in the bottom. The crowning touch comes when you set a removable grill rack into the top, converting it to a functional conversation piece for the patio.

Do you like wall planters? Do you remember seeing one of those steel-gray metal “hoods” or steam covers originally designed to cover huge venison platters? These steam covers, usually of pewter, can be cut in half length-wise, splitting even the handle to create a pair of identical wall brackets. A welder can solder a backing on each half and outfit each with a copper lining.

Uses for candelabrum

For those fortunate enough to own fine English silver, an old Sheffield candelabrum will have special attraction. These unique candleabra were designed so the branches may be removed, creating handsome single candleholders. They're just right for today's compact and convertible living.

Serve condiments graciously. Antique snuff spoons are just the thing. These miniature spoons, about four inches in length usually have decorative ivory or bone handles. Try using them with your dinner mustard pots.

Antique oaken buckets lend that warm, welcome touch to any home. Make them functional today holding balls of rug rags, balls of yarn and other sewing materials. They're also handsome for magazines and fireplace logs.

The English love their tea piping hot and so were resourceful in designing the spoonwarmer. This was a hollow silver container often fashioned to relate some aspect of life near the ocean. Such designs include a buoy or crab. These old spoonwarmers had an open tip with a hinged lid on one half where the teaspoon was placed and moved, creating handsome single candleholders. A giant ladle can be fashioned in brass, while others are modeled of china or porcelain and decorated with hand-painted ovaries.

Tiebacks of brass

Antique brass drapery tiebacks are ideal for towel studs in the bathroom. They screw securely into the wall. You'll be delighted with the elegant aire the bath assumes with colored towels draped from the brass decorations.

While you're in the antique shop look for ironstone, a very heavy porcelain-white dishware. A giant ironstone tureen complete with self-ladle is a real find and you'll love it filled with fruit or freshly cut flowers.

Wondered more than once where and how to keep bathsalts? Look no further than the antique apothecary jar! Those interesting jars once displayed striped candy sticks and cinnamon balls in the general store.

Coasters aren't new. In fact, they were used hundreds of years ago in France under wine bottles! These antique coasters today make elegant nut servers on the coffee table. Most of them are about five inches in diameter with a one inch rim, of hammered metal or solid oak.

Italy, one hundred years ago, is ingrained in the decor of many a fashionable interior today in the modern Italian lavabo. This is a wall ornament of two sections; the top is a water container (flask shaped) with lid and spigot, and the bottom, a basin or halfbowl.

The lavabo was once the wash bowl in the Italian guest room. Today this basin with large-leaf greenery is hung with fine taste above an antique chest or modern sofa. Some lavabos are fashioned in brass, while others are modeled of china or porcelain and decorated with handpainted overlay.

Where is that giant ladle your great-aunt used to serve oyster stew to Sunday night company? Better polish it up for it has real possibilities. It is perfect as a holder for cigarettes, candies or nuts.

The old English biscuit boxes, some of frosted glass with cut designing, some of silverplate, were originally meant to keep little English biscuits, but today they're wonderful for fancy cookies and candies.

Shears for salad

Possibly one of the most timely antiques for today's use is a pair of grape shears, appropriate for our salad-loving generation. These shears are usually elegantly elaborate besides being strictly functional.

The past has a functional future in our casual, practical homes of today. And it enriches the aesthetic values of our lives over and over again.