

CALIFORNIA HOMES

THE MAGAZINE OF ARCHITECTURE, THE ARTS & DISTINCTIVE DESIGN

LIVING WITH ANTIQUES

At Home With
A California
ANTIQUES
COLLECTOR

SAN FRANCISCO DESIGNER
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Designer
Susanne Tucker in
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LIVING WITH ANTIQUES

A PRIVATE HAVEN FOR A PASSIONATE COLLECTOR
AT HOME IN BEVERLY HILLS

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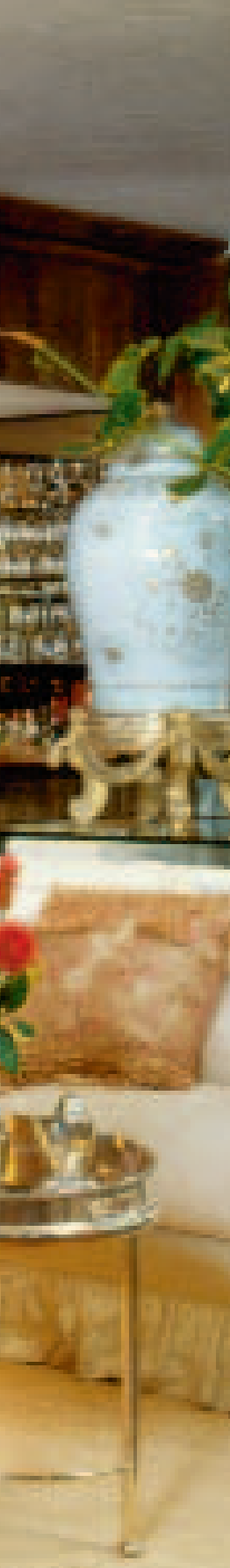




PREVIOUS PAGES: LEFT PAGE: A gilded Russian tea set, a London find, shines beneath a collection of understated modern drawings. RIGHT PAGE: An oversized antique English cabinet

displays the abundant colors of a portion of Judy Briskin's china and porcelain collection. The wrought-iron chandelier is a French antique. ABOVE: Antique Venetian mirrors

and 18th century Chinese export china are juxtaposed against the warmth of antique paneling. A porcelain vase and a French antique silver tray table are skillfully arranged in the living room.



Climb the curving drive to this charming house with mullioned windows tucked away in a verdant Beverly Hills cul-de-sac, and walk in to a world of marvels. Interesting, eclectic and beautiful antiques are everywhere, the fruit of a lifetime of collecting. “Looking for antiques should be like going to the art museum,” says Judy Briskin, a collector with exquisite taste and a trained eye.

Surrounded by treasures, Judy and her husband live a warm family life, full of children and grandchildren, friends, holiday parties and entertaining. During her career as an interior designer to many illustrious homeowners—(sorry, she no longer accepts new clients)—Briskin began collecting antiques almost casually, during leisurely visits to estate sales, flea markets and antiques fairs. “Young people start collecting with what they can afford. You can go to a thrift shop and find fabulous things. You start buying things you like, and then it becomes a passion...actually, more of an obsession,” Briskin says.

Her “obsession” with antiques led to a commitment to put Los Angeles on the international map of antique sources and world-class shows. Deeply involved in charitable efforts, Briskin and a group of her colleagues in the Women’s Guild



of Cedars-Sinai Medical Center (CSMC) developed the annual Los Angeles Antiques Show, now in its eighth year, to help support the programs in women’s health at CSMC, one of the nation’s leading medical centers.

Although she is devoted to producing and promoting the Los Angeles Antiques Show, Briskin is a private person. Now CALIFORNIA HOMES offers a rare glimpse of the collections Briskin has arranged over the years, where beautiful and unusual objects coexist in great harmony, mixing and overlapping, contrasting with and complementing one another.

UPPER RIGHT: In the living room, an antique desk displays a unique collection of carved wood and ivory *objets*, including a delicate drawing of a rose by Los Angeles artist Sandra Sallin



A CARVED JAPANESE IVORY is placed next to an articulated wooden puppet, and antique Venetian mirrors are flanked with paintings by Sam Francis. In the formal dining room, subtle drawings by modern and Impressionist artists such as Henri Matisse are illuminated by a find from the Paris flea market, a unique 18th century French chandelier with oversized crystal drops.

In the master bedroom, a massive French stone round architectural window frames the mirror over a graceful grouping of Chinese porcelain Kuan Yin goddesses. Pre-Columbian art is at home with family portraits. Nineteenth and early 20th century children's furniture and toys are scattered about the pool patio and bedrooms. And Briskin's luxurious bath retreat is a treasure trove of Japanese carved ivory flowers, antique mother-of-pearl and tropical seashells—and a grandchild's carved frog-draped with necklaces of antique shell beads.

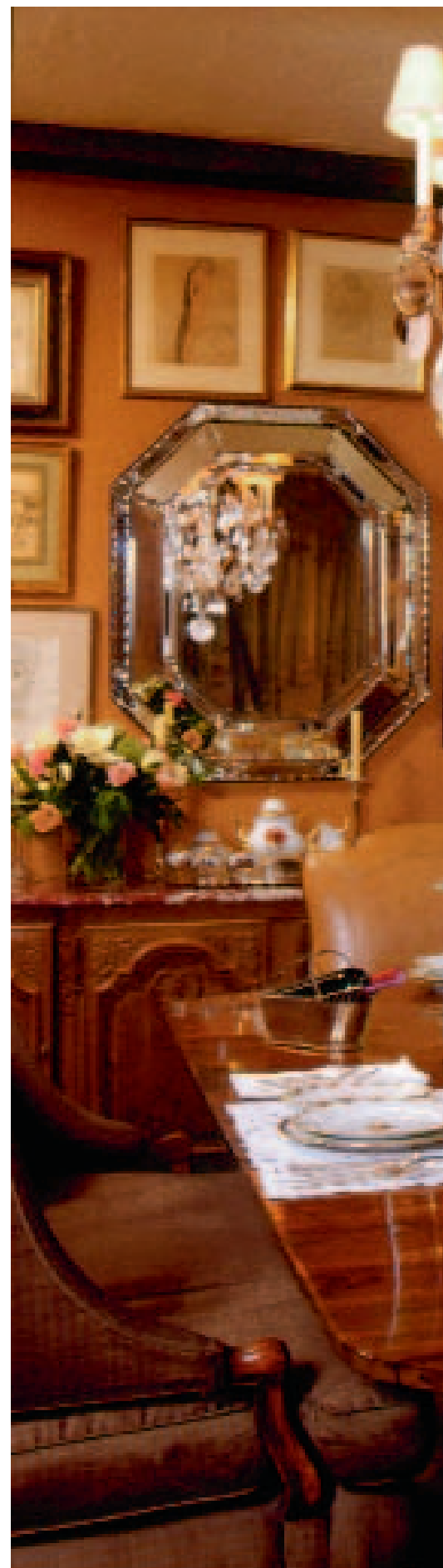
Passion most certainly gives way to obsession when it comes to Briskin's pride and joy, her china and porcelain collections. Antique paneling and a beautifully aged wood-and-brick parquet floor provide a setting for the living room's strikingly colorful collections of

five patterns of 18th century Chinese export tobacco ware porcelain, made for the Portuguese market. Carefully chosen, cherished and rare china pieces fill a very large antique English cabinet in the breakfast room and overflow into cabinets in the pantry, dining room and living room. Displayed are a mix of Mason ware, named for the inventor of ironstone, Britain's answer to Chinese porcelain; modern and antique lusterware, with its iridescent overglaze; Italian faïence; French scalloped plates with dainty flowers; and raspberry-colored English Spode.

"We have lived here for thirty years, and decorate our home as the years go by," Briskin explains. She advises, "When you collect, you should put together things that you love. No need to judge by price or rarity, gilding or crystal—buy what you love, and place the object according to what it can do in your home.

"I love a feeling of intimacy, not a show. Ask yourself, 'does it create warmth, and a friendly ambiance?'" *

RIGHT: Antique English settees and dining table are illuminated by an antique chandelier with oversized drops, found in a Paris flea market, that sparkles off an antique Venetian mirror.





THE LOS ANGELES ANTIQUES SHOW,
MAY 1-4, 2003, IS A BENEFIT FOR
WOMEN'S GUILD OF
CEDARS-SINAI MEDICAL CENTER

THE ANNUAL LOS ANGELES ANTIQUES SHOW will take place May 1-4, 2003 at Barker Hanger at the Santa Monica Air Center South Field, 3021 Airport Avenue, Santa Monica, California. A glittering Gala Opening Preview Party will be held on Thursday May 1st at Barker Hangar. For tickets to the preview party and information about show hours, parking and admission, go to www.losangelesantiqueshow.com or call the Women's Guild of Cedars-Sinai Medical Center (CSMC), 310.423.3667.

The Los Angeles Antiques Show is a major fundraiser for the Women's Guild, which supports essential research in breast cancer, heart, osteoporosis, and other illnesses affecting women, as well as helping to provide state-of-the-art equipment and clinical care. Since its founding in 1957, the Women's Guild of Cedars-Sinai Medical Center has raised more than \$12 million in support of 70 projects, including programs in patient care, biomedical research and education.

ABOVE: Members of the Los Angeles Antiques Show Benefit Committee of the Women's Guild of Cedars-Sinai Medical Center meet informally at the home of Judy Briskin. FROM LEFT BOTTOM: Barbara Kaye, Abby Levey, Vera Guerin, and Beverly Firestein. TOP LEFT: Judy Briskin and Brenda Fritz.