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Style Dispatch

- What's new in Nashville design
- Palm Springs inspiration



Tara Shaw + Century

As an interior designer, antiques importer, and author of *Soul of the Home*, Tara Shaw understands that an antique can easily slip away if it's not secured upon discovery. The New Orleans designer recognized that a partnership with Century Furniture to reproduce her favorite antique silhouettes will make the coveted historical forms accessible to all. centuryfurniture.com; tarashaw.com

Q This is not your first foray in furniture. You've sold your own designs before through your shop. When did you decide to take that leap from collector and importer to furniture designer?

A My perspective is from working in the fields and markets in Europe. I saw the cost of a one-of-a-kind piece and learned that sometimes you only see it once. I started collecting pieces that would be "heroes" in a room and mixed them with contemporary iron furniture that we made. I launched Tara Shaw Maison in 2007. Then Century came calling. I'm thrilled to share my vision with them.

Q What pieces from the collection with Century are you especially proud of? We know you must have a few favorites.

A The bibliothèque (top right) was the birth of Tara Shaw Maison. I saw the bookcase at the end of a buying trip to France at the Marché aux Puces. It was love at first sight, but I was out of money since I had been in the fields for five weeks. My container was already filled, but I knew if I didn't buy this piece, too, I would regret

Above, from top left: "Victoire" carved console, "Grande Fontainebleau" French painted bibliothèque, "Noir" ebonized chest of drawers, "Petite Salon" table, "Petite Parisian" gilded iron accent table, and "Sven" plaster lamp table.

it. I started to reproduce this piece once I returned home. It's the hero of the line and still as beautiful today as the day I saw it in the Puces.

Q There is seemingly a renewed interest in antiques. What factors are behind the uptick?

A People want individuality. No one wants the same look as their neighbor. Antiques or one-of-a-kind unique pieces speak volumes about a homeowner and her distinct personality. ■