

STYLE SECRETS FOR EVERY ROOM • HOW TO SCORE THE BEST BARGAINS

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CAROLE MARCOTTE

The Fearless, Fun-Loving Shop Owner

In Raleigh, North Carolina, this interior designer owns Form & Function, a vintage store with a funky vibe in an iconic midcentury building. "We sell made-in-America and upcycled items with select vintage pieces. We encourage design clients to refurbish and display existing décor and collections. I approach the store and design work with a nod to sustainability. Vintage is the ultimate recycling!"

Sense of fun Quirky finds mixed with formal pieces. "We love customers' comments when they see our vintage mannequin suspended from the store's ceiling on an old bedspring."

Hunts for Classic, functional pieces (Asian, French or American furnishings), blue-and-white porcelain, brass, Florentine items, small boxes for desk storage and coffee table display. "I also have an industrial vibe, with a stash of street sweeper brushes, metal carts, gears and other pieces that can translate into unusual 'art' installations. This weird mix somehow works!"

Ends up buying Artistic finds like the 5-foot-tall, papier-mâché lady made

by a famous Mexican folk artist. "I take risks knowing these things will sit in the store longer, waiting for the right buyer, but they add whimsy to the more classic pieces in the store."

Tricks for finding the best stuff

Put your phone away. Walk the aisles twice in different directions; things will jump out that you missed the first time. Attend estate sale previews so you know exactly where items are when the sale starts the next morning. The early bird does indeed get the worm.

Best bargaining tip Ask sellers for their best and final price. "It is often lower than the price I had in mind."

Styling wisdom "Don't be a slave to one style; mixing it up is infinitely more interesting, particularly when mixing high/low. Make pieces your own and be fearless in your decisions!"

Best score A long, tufted red-leather sofa. "I spotted it in a dark corner of an estate sale garage for \$40! It was dirty and had some worn areas, but it was gorgeous once I cleaned it up. It sold for many times what I paid."

Visit formandfunctionraleigh.com; Instagram: @formandfunctionraleigh

- 1 Trophies, car parts and vintage baseballs tap into Marcotte's sense of fun inside her store.
- 2 The blue-and-white porcelain display at Form & Function enchants collectors.
- 3 Marcotte designed a "bohemian gallery wall" for one design client's living room.
- 4 This tray of desk accessories was a vignette she created for another design client.





A cluster of antique photo frames form a vignette inside a vignette.