

Antique and vintage interior lighting

Finding historic options to fit each space

BY LAURI KRAMER SERAFIN

Antique lighting fixtures are one of the best ways to enhance the interior character of a historic home. The right combination of lighting fixture and space can be inspirational, an important detail in historic home restoration. When I started my first restoration project, back in 1988, I was mystified as to what I should select.

Often, original light fixtures in a home have been removed, as new fixtures can be easily purchased and installed. I am fortunate to have 20 original, matching wall sconces in the Forsstrom House, as well as two original chandeliers.

Other fixtures in the home were an odd group, and most did not match the home's era and style. As a collector of antique lighting, I

quickly started to find and install restored fixtures, some found and others from my collection. I let friends also involved in restoration know what I was seeking, and many friends' lighting stashes were soon donated to the house.

I found lighting perfect for the home's style and age, but many pieces were broken or incomplete. My husband and I rewired and restored simple fixtures. We even keep a stash of lighting parts, though I often work with a restoration professional. With lighting, safety is a main concern. It's worth working with a professional if you lack the skills to restore, rewire or install.

When starting a lighting project, first consider its goals. Are you looking for ambient or task lighting? How much light do you need? Antique lighting is typically more suited to ambient or dimmer lighting. An antique ceiling fixture may not give enough light and may

See Page 19



ABOVE: A Hollywood Regency style chandelier, as found after being stored in a barn.



RIGHT: A restoration with polychrome paint by Kasey White. The restored fixture is destined for a small entryway of her Victorian home.

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Men, it's time to check your health!

It's Men's Health Month, a good time to think about any preventative screenings or tests needed at different stages of life. These can include:

- Blood pressure, diabetes and cholesterol checks
- Colorectal and prostate cancer screening options
- Routine checkups to get advice on diet, exercise and safety

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