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be supplemented by a table or floor lamp.

For the best historic results, vintage and antique light fixtures should be era, style and period appropriate. Some spaces may need more elaborate, high-end fixtures. To start, select design motifs found in other areas of the home, or look for materials and finishes consistent with original fixtures.

Common lighting styles include Victorian, Classic Revival, Colonial Revival, craftsman, art deco, midcentury modern and Hollywood Regency.

The grand staircase of the Forsstrom House, dating to 1915, was previously lit by a single wall sconce, an inadequate amount of light for the space. Instead, I located a battered six light 1960s Hollywood Regency chandelier. A bargain, it had been stored in a barn for decades.

I ordered replacement parts, but soon found that the project was above my skill set and instead hired a lighting restoration professional. He rewired, repaired it and painted the fixture an antique gold. I later applied black glaze and installed black candle covers on it for a finishing touch.

My husband, along with an electrician, wired the fixture through the home's attic, then installed a push button dimmer switch and ceiling medallion.

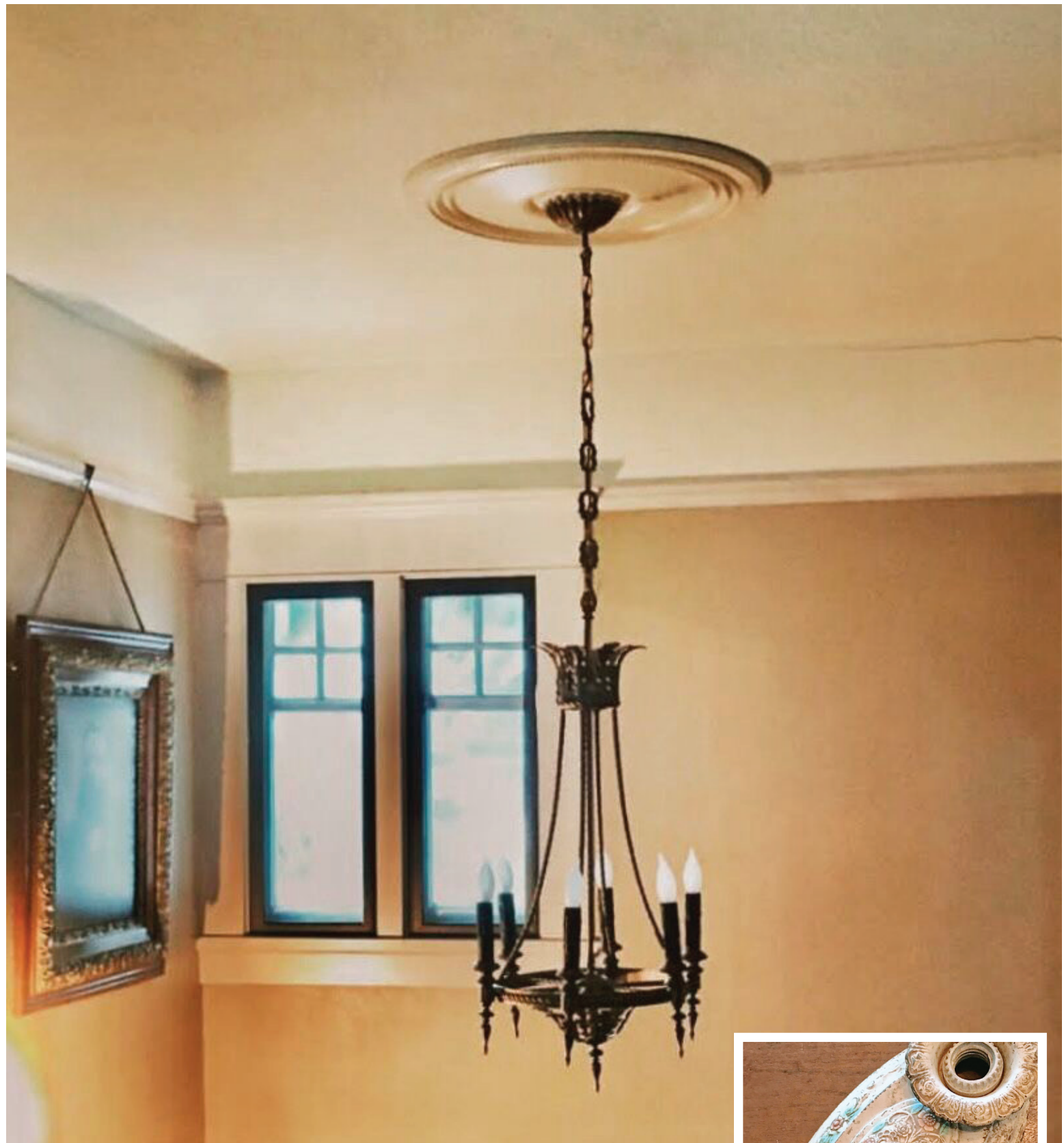
It is pure joy to light the grand staircase with dim or strong light, depending on the setting and time of day. The light fixture is quite glamorous for the space, especially with the 24 inch ceiling medallion. Though the selection breaks my general guidelines for matching age and era, I find that it works well.

The antique gold paint coupled with black glaze tones down the Regency style, helping the piece retain its statement quality while blending in. The shape of the candle holders mimics the home's candle wall sconces, echoing design motifs found throughout the house.

My neighbor, Kasey White, is an artist, as well as a fellow old house enthusiast. I gave her a 1920s era ceiling pan fixture. Its body was of a stamped, tin colored metal, so stripping the paint to reveal brass was not an option.

Instead, she painted it in polychrome for her Victorian home and purchased replacement ceramic bulb sockets at City Lumber Co. The polychrome paint helps the fixture become more Victorian in theme. The fixture is a nice example of artistry, thrift and reuse.

*Lauri Kramer Serafin is the owner of the Forsstrom House in Astoria's Shively-McClure Historic District. For more about her restoration work, contact [forsstromhouse@gmail.com](mailto:forsstromhouse@gmail.com) or visit [theforsstromhouse.com](http://theforsstromhouse.com).*



Photos by Lauri Kramer Serafin  
**ABOVE: A restored chandelier fixture, as seen in the Forsstrom House grand staircase from an upper floor sitting room. RIGHT: Stamped metal ceiling pan fixture as found.**

**THE SHAPE OF THE CANDLE HOLDERS MIMICS THE HOME'S CANDLE WALL SCONCES, ECHOING DESIGN MOTIFS FOUND THROUGHOUT THE HOUSE.**

