

Decorating in an 1860s Style

The Rococo Revival is Revived in a Long Island Home

BY NANCY A. RUHLING

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB KERN



Rococo Revival, with all of its seductive “S” and “C” curves, is the quintessential Victorian style, the one that all new collectors seem to fall head over heels for. Perhaps it is because it looks French, or perhaps it is because it

is the look that is most associated with *Rhett and Scarlett* and the whole romanticized notion of the “Gone with the Wind” period.

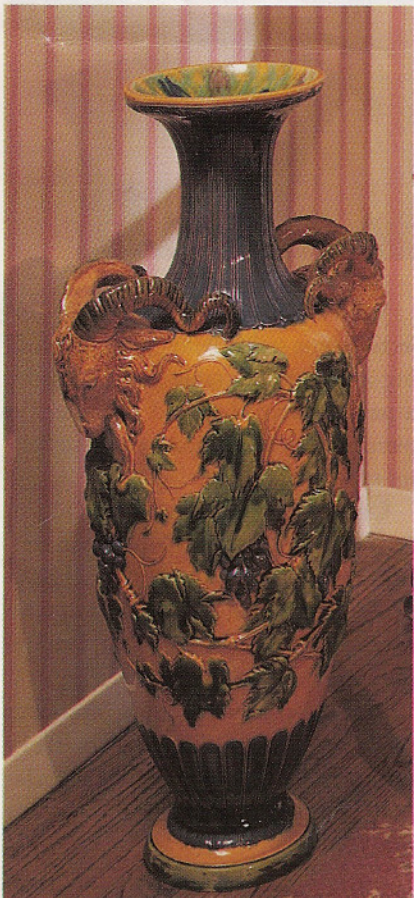
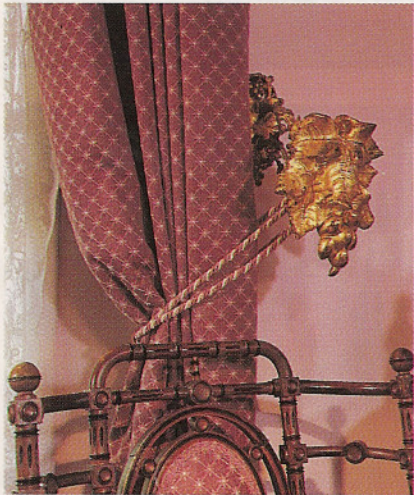
Whatever the reason for its newfound popularity, the Rococo Revival,

exemplified by the magnificent works of premier New York City cabinetmaker John Henry Belter, is a style that can stand securely on its own cabriole legs without all the other emotional connections associated with it.

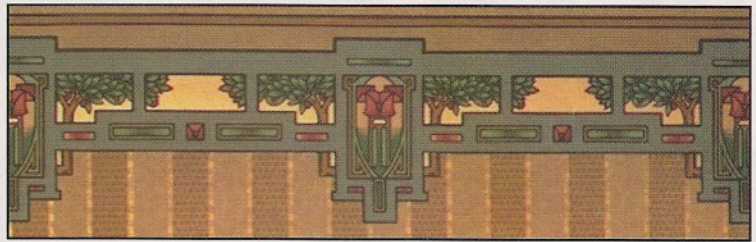


Indeed, the style so captivated one Long Island, New York, couple that they decided to decorate their entire eight-room house in an 1860s style.

They wanted the best of Belter, which they discovered at a museum exhibition while on a business trip to New Orleans several years ago, and called upon antiques dealer Joan Bogart of Rockville Centre, New York, to find them furniture, lighting fixtures, and other accessories from the period.



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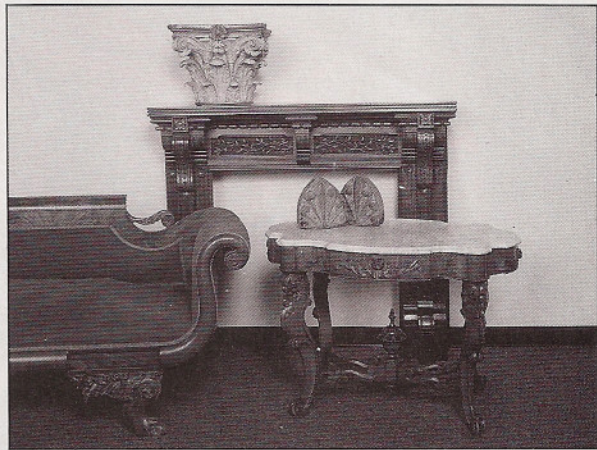
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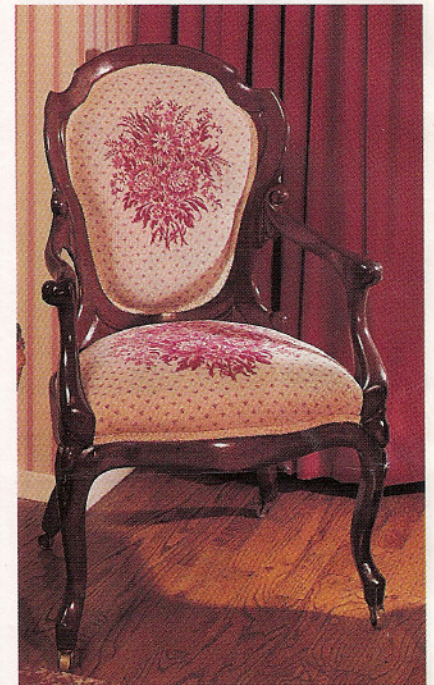
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With Bogart's help, the couple collected some stellar Belter pieces, including a rare dining table and six chairs, a pair of pierced-carved recamiers, a pierced-carved sofa, and a stunning center table with dolphin legs.

Once the key pieces were purchased, Bogart set out to help them turn the entire interior of their elegant eight-room house into a study in 1860s design by adding lamps, curtain tiebacks, lambrequins, Majolica, and Parian.

And this particular 1860s interior is well-suited to a 1990s lifestyle: Every piece, from the dining table to the Majolica dinner plates, is in constant use. **VII**

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