

Objects of AFFECTION

DESIGNERS PEN LOVE NOTES TO THE FURNITURE PIECE THAT CONTINUES TO INSPIRE.
PRODUCED BY GRACE BEULEY HUNT

“I bought an 18th-century walnut commode in Venice, which has lived with me in Rome, Los Angeles, Texas and Switzerland. If you find something you love with quality craftsmanship, you’ll never tire of it.”

—MICHELLE NUSSBAUMER

“My mouth still waters over a 1930s Frits Henningsen high-back, two-seater settee we found for a client. The bison leather upholstery was original and supple from age.”

—CHARLIE HELLSTERN

“I LONG FOR A VINCENZO DE COTIIS COFFEE TABLE. I ADMIRE HIS ABILITY TO MIX MATERIALS SEAMLESSLY, CREATING SOMETHING FRESH AND TIMELESS AT ONCE.”

—NATASHA BARADARAN

“My first ‘real’ piece of furniture was a 1950s boomerang coffee table from JF Chen. I couldn’t afford it at the time, so I arranged multiple payments. It’s still in my sitting room!”

—OLIVER M. FURTH

“I still buy good antique and vintage wingback chairs. There is something about the shape that lends a sense of protection.”

—JASON ARNOLD

“WHEN PIERRE PAULIN’S ALPHA SOFA WAS FIRST PRODUCED, IT WAS A LOOK TO THE FUTURE. TODAY, IT EVOKES THE SAME EFFECT. PROLIFIC DESIGN IS CURRENCY IN EVERY DECADE.”

—JESSIE SCHUSTER



“MY HUSBAND AND I BOUGHT A 19TH-CENTURY WALNUT BED AT A VINTAGE MARKET IN FRANCE NEARLY 20 YEARS AGO. I LOVE THAT IT’S RESCUED AND REUSED, AND I LOVE THAT IT HAS A FRENCH HISTORY.”

—JESSICA HELGERSON

“MY MOTHER CREATED AN IRON BED WITH A CANOPY OF LEAVES AND CREEPING VINES, WHICH I SLEEP UNDER IN FLORIDA. IT INSPIRED MY OWN JUNGLE VERSION DESIGN FOR THE PLAYA GRANDE BEACH CLUB.”

—CELERIE KEMBLE

“I bought a rush and oak chair made for the movie How to Marry a Millionaire, and 15 years later, it’s still a favorite. It does what great design should do: cover many vibes.”

—PETER DUNHAM



“One of my favorite gifts ever was a Rick Owens chair. It’s less a piece of furniture and more a piece of art, which is how I like to display it: against a clean wall.”

—KARA MANN

“VLADIMIR KAGAN’S SERPENTINE SOFA IS ONE OF THE MOST ELEGANT AND TIMELESS PIECES OF FURNITURE EVER. JUST SITTING ON ONE MAKES YOU FEEL CHIC!”

—DENISE MCGAHA

“PIERRE JEANNERET’S TEAK AND CANE CHAIR MAKES A SUBTLE STATEMENT. IT’S SIMPLE, STRUCTURAL AND TEXTURAL, AND THE CANING DETAIL MAKES IT TIMELESS.”

—REGAN BAKER

“Francis Jourdain’s Cubist chairs are deceptively simple and often copied, but their genius is in the proportion. They fit the body the way a perfectly cut jacket just fits.”

—JOHN GACHOT

“I spotted the vintage tiger velvet sofa (now in my office), and held onto the tear sheet for over a year hoping it wouldn’t sell. When it arrived, it was like a long-lost child and I had been reunited.”

—SUMMER THORNTON

“GAE AULENTI’S JUMBO MARBLE COFFEE TABLE SEEMS TO IMPROVE ANY ROOM, ATTAINING AN ALCHEMY OF DARING AND TIMELESSNESS.”

—BRIGETTE ROMANEK



SOFA: COURTESY RALPH PUCCI. CHAIR: COURTESY RICK OWENS. IN-SITU: BRANTLEY PHOTOGRAPHY, COURTESY PETER DUNHAM DESIGN.