



## INTO THE MIX

*Shopping SOMA's Antiques Galleries*  
BY KENDRA BOUTELL

DESIGNER SUZANNE TUCKER of Tucker & Marks mixes antiques into each of her projects. "For me, antiques give a room soul. There do not have to be many antiques and they do not all need to be the finest examples. But the rich patina of old wood, painted finishes or burnished metals gives a lovely juxtaposition to what is new and can make a room more interesting, balanced and unique," she commented. When Tucker and her design colleagues

source antiques in San Francisco they visit the knowledgeable dealers of the SOMA design district.

At the heart of the neighborhood, Antique & Art Exchange displays eclectic 17th through 19th century European and Asian furnishings, paintings, decorative arts, and curiosities. Founded on Sacramento Street in 1995 by antiquarians Keith Dietrich and Howard Settle, it later relocated to the Vermont Center. From their expansive gallery, the

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-ERIC PETSINGER OF EPOCA

**OPPOSITE** Jim Gallagher holds court amid the treasures of the Garden Court. Originally, from New England and an avid sailor, Gallagher brings a touch of the Atlantic coast to his inventory of English and Continental antiques. **RIGHT** Antiques dealer, Eric Petsinger stands at the entrance of his gallery Epoca. Petsinger hand selects his entire inventory, even driving the truck on his buying trips across the country. Pictured below, one of a pair of Gigi Radice for Minotti mid century club chairs.



partners and dog Rocky, graciously welcome collectors and designers alike.

Flanking Antique & Art Exchange, two additional dealers offer rare treasures. James Eddy of Colonial Arts specializes in Spanish colonial art and antiques. His collection includes folk art from Spain, Mexico, and the Americas along with Santos figures, devotional paintings, and talavera pottery. Starting as a cyber enterprise in 1998, Eddy established his first brick and mortar business in North Beach before joining the design district.

On the other side of Antique & Art Exchange, Garden Court Antiques highlights fine English and Continental antique furnishings contrasted with bold contemporary art. Opened by antiques collector Sue Coleman in 2002, design industry veteran

# Antiques

Antique dealers never stop schlepping; Howard Settle of Antique & Art Exchange carries a prized bronze bust by Glasgow School artist Francis Derwent Wood. Settle and his partner Keith Dietrich also feature a Belle Époque Giltwood Chandelier, a large pair of Japanese Carved Snow Lions, and an Italian Cherry Inlaid Double Serpentine Chest of Drawers in their eclectic shop.



**ABOVE** From James Eddy of Colonial Arts: a large 19th century "lebrillo" (basin) found in the Triana District of Seville, Spain, a rare 18th century Spanish colonial coquera, and a pair of early 18th century Spanish colonial silver candlesticks. Eddy's unique background, with roots in Connecticut and South Texas, along with close ties to Mexico and Spain, informs his collecting.

Jim Gallagher manages the business. A hands-on manager, Gallagher often restores and polishes his own inventory on site.

A couple of blocks away, Eric Petsinger of Epoca mingles 20th century furniture and accessories with more traditional pieces. The Pittsburgh native advises clients, "Mix it up! Go ahead, put that shapely French rococo armchair next to a sleek John Widdicomb sofa, and see how they bring out each other's beauty." **CH**

- [www.gardencourtantiques.com](http://www.gardencourtantiques.com)
- [www.epocasf.com](http://www.epocasf.com)
- [www.antiqueandartexchange.com](http://www.antiqueandartexchange.com)
- [www.colonialarts.com](http://www.colonialarts.com)