

Buying to last

Lucy Feagins, editor of The Design Files, offers her tips for choosing home investment pieces.

I always encourage readers to buy investment pieces when they can, rather than “throwaway” pieces that will need replacing in a year or two. We’ve become so used to buying obscenely cheap furniture on sale without much consideration that a lot of us have forgotten what it’s like to research, covet, save and invest in quality things that cost a little more.

But it’s the research and careful consideration that comes with investing in quality furniture, artwork or lighting that ensures you’ll still love them for years to come.

If you’re not used to buying investment pieces for your home, don’t be overwhelmed. Simply try to channel the same thought process as the last time you bought a really big-ticket item – such as a new car, a wedding dress or a giant plasma screen TV. These purchases all require careful thought over a few weeks, and investment pieces for the home are no different. Visit various showrooms, ask lots of questions and drag your partner or a friend along for their opinion. Don’t buy in a hurry, and don’t be rushed if something is on sale.

You should be obsessed with the piece. Research, select, and wait it out for six to eight weeks before you buy.



LUCY'S PORTFOLIO

Oil painting by Emily Ferretti (represented by Sophie Gannon Gallery) I am a huge fan of Australian art and Emily Ferretti is a firm favourite. I adore her paintings. sophiegannongallery.com.au

'Nook' sofa by Jardan A sofa is not a furniture item you can scrimp on. It becomes a centrepiece in your living space, and you'd be horrified to calculate just many hours you spend every week sitting on it. A solid construction and quality upholstery with down-filled cushions are a must. Buy the best you can afford, you won't regret it. I love the designs at Jardan. jardan.com.au

Berber rug from Loom A great rug is an investment piece and, much like an original artwork, no two handwoven rugs are the same. Loom is my favourite supplier for both contemporary and traditional rugs. loomrugs.com

Brass sculptures Anna Varendorff's delicate geometric brass sculptures are beautiful and affordable - they can be displayed in multiple ways and cast beautiful shadows when the light hits them. annavarendorff.com

Tizio lamp The Tizio Lamp is a classic piece first designed in 1972 by Richard Sapper for Artemide. artemide.com.au

Mark Tuckey eggcup stool This solid timber side table/stool by Sydney furniture designer Mark Tuckey is such a versatile piece. It moves around our place from living room to bedroom to bathroom. marktuckey.com.au

Vintage Eames desk chair I am a huge believer in saving for real designer pieces instead of buying replicas. The iconic Aluminium Group desk chairs by Charles and Ray Eames have been copied to death but nothing beats the original! I found this one with its cream leather seat at a secondhand dealer - it's my work chair.

Diesis marble coffee table The Diesis coffee table designed by Antonio Citterio for B&B Italia had been on my husband's wishlist for many years. We love its sleek marble top and cast aluminium base - despite its hefty weight, it has a beautifully delicate silhouette. spacefurniture.com.au

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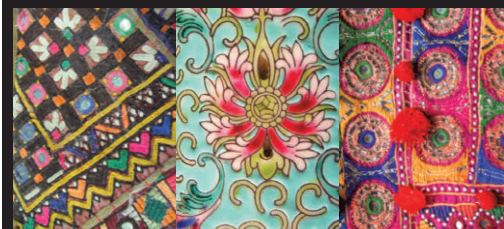
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