

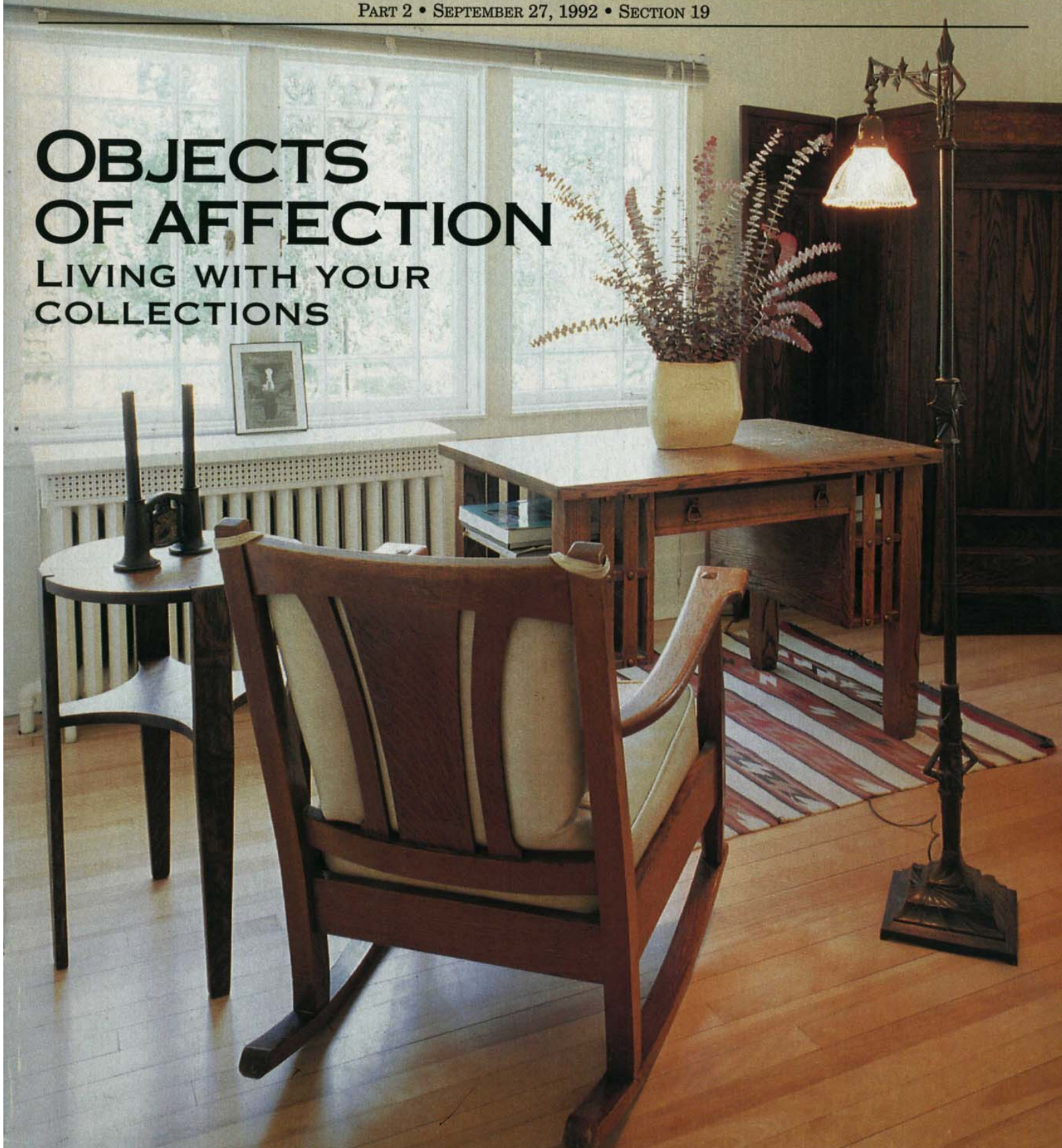
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HOME DESIGN

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OBJECTS OF AFFECTION

LIVING WITH YOUR
COLLECTIONS



ECLECTIC ELEGANCE

*An artful mix of Old World and
contemporary objects
and furnishings*



*By Victoria
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TO ACHIEVE THE look of Old-World elegance in your home: Be lucky enough to inherit a palazzo full of fine European antiques and bibelots, or, as in the case with interior designer Barbara Lione, develop the taste and ability to gather enough of the objects around you that your friends will believe they're closer to Lake Como than Lake Michigan.

By mixing 18th Century French and Italian furniture with collections of old paintings, tortoise-shell boxes, silver

and other accouterments, Lione (and her partner of 10 years, Jim Zidlicky) created an ambience of relaxed formality in the Chicago townhouse she shares with husband Richard and which doubles as the design offices for Interiors II Ltd.

In true collector fashion, there are virtually no horizontal surfaces bereft of some unique objet d'art—a Chinese porcelain here, a statue fragment there. Fifteen years of auctions, European sojourns and forays to antiques stores and showrooms has led to this refined but eclectic assortment of furnishings, finally eclipsing the sleek lines of Mies van der Rohe and Le Corbusier that Lione previously favored. "I began to miss the more cluttered, Old World look I'd grown up with," says the designer, who was forced to abandon her childhood home in Germany during World War II. "We lost everything, but I was left with an eye for beautiful things. I'm not a serious collector by any means—I just buy what I like." Indeed, rather than taking the purist path, Lione

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WITH AN EMPHASIS ON GRACIOUSNESS AND SOPHISTICATED, LIONE'S OCTAGONAL DINING ROOM AND INVITING LIVING ROOM ARE HOMAGES TO HER COLLECTING PASSION.







A ROOMFUL OF ANTIQUE FRENCH PANELING WARMS THE LIBRARY (ABOVE), WITH ITS RELAXED WICKER FURNITURE, WHILE A SUITE OF OLD ITALIAN PRINTS IS SET ABOVE THE DINING ROOM'S DOORS (RIGHT).



collection of tortoise-shell tea caddies, Lione will buy ones in poor condition and have them restored. But she has tried to add one good piece to her home every year, whether a silver platter, walnut armoire or Bessarabian rug. "I'd like to have some things of value to hand down to my heirs, rather than a bunch of objects that will be worthless in five years," she muses. "Besides, if you have good things, they tend to mix well together. And that's how you create the 'charming, lived-in look' everyone seems to want instantaneously!"

ECLECTIC

Continued
 tosses some classic contemporary upholstered couches and chairs into the mix ("They're much more comfortable than antiques, and people need a place to sit!"), plus a few "ringers," such as the set of faux 19th Century dining-room chairs ("Who can afford an original set these days?") and the Giacometti-esque coffee table.
 Thriftiness is also a consideration: To augment her



ABOVE: MIXING AN ITALIAN CONSOLE WITH A FRENCH BAROMETER AND AN ENGLISH PAPIER-MÂCHÉ TRAY IS TYPICAL OF LIONE'S STYLE.

LEFT: COMFY READING CHAIRS AND CONTEMPORARY LIGHTS WORK WELL WITH A FRENCH ARMOIRE AND ANTIQUE "ANCESTOR" PORTRAITS.