

The impressive linen press in Lisa Lloyd and Marc Allum's sitting room is used as a glamorous television cabinet. It's thought to be Austrian and is late 19th century. The exotic hardwood features a wonderful leopard-print effect that ties in with Lisa's cushions. Above the fire hangs a painting by Hans Feibusch, which dates from 1954. The coffee table is thought to be 1960s. The flowers and foliage are from Coates Florist in Chippenham



The collectors'
CALLING

Lisa Lloyd and Marc Allum live and breathe antiques, as their home - filled with intriguing finds that span the eras - reveals

FEATURE **KATIE HALLETT** PHOTOGRAPHS **NICHOLAS YARSLEY**



There's a letter in the Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology in Oxford composed by one of the previous occupants of this former vicarage in Chippenham, the brilliantly named Gilbertius Lake. In the letter, Lake – a well-known antiquarian and amateur archaeologist of the Georgian era – complains of how he was too late in arriving at a nearby archaeological dig, missing out on the acquisition of an ancient skull. Today in the library of his former home you can find, amongst the many displays, a 19th-century Sepik River headhunter's knife from Papua New Guinea (carved from a cassowary leg bone), a 15th-century Mayan 'rattle' bowl and 19th-century Japanese samurai armour.

It may be almost 300 years since Lake made his mark on the property, but it's easy to imagine that he would be fully on board with the current owners' collections and indeed with the owners themselves, Lisa Lloyd and Marc Allum. The couple have always been fascinated by history and, ➤

Profile

THE OWNERS Lisa Lloyd and Marc Allum live here with their daughter Tallulah (17), two dogs, Maisie and Coco, and cat Minou. Lisa and Marc are both specialists on the *Antiques Roadshow*. Lisa runs Hand of Glory Antiques & Interiors (handofgloryantiques.com), while Marc is an author and lecturer (marcallum.co.uk).

THE PROPERTY The earliest parts of this former vicarage date to the 15th century although it has Georgian additions. Downstairs there's a kitchen, sitting room, dining room and library, while upstairs there are five bedrooms and a large dressing room. Tallulah's bedroom is on the floor above.

TOP Lisa and Marc outside their home with dogs Maisie (a rough-haired Jack Russell) and Maisie's mother Coco. Maisie appears in the opening credits of the *Antiques Roadshow*. RIGHT The gilt bronze (c1860s-1870s) on the far left depicts *Flora* by Antoine Coysevox. The glazed cabinet on top of the linen press is a French giltwood reliquary for St Concordius and dates from the early 19th century. Lisa bought it at a local auction a couple of years ago. The drinks trolley is wrought iron, French, and dates from the 1940s



To the right of the French console hangs Napoleon's death mask. The paintings are, from left: a 1920s male portrait by an unknown artist and a 1950s portrait by Serge de Turville. The French bergere dating from the late 19th century is one of a pair, while the classical 'urn' next to it is an early 19th-century encaustic vase in the style of Wedgwood, but is thought to be Swansea

Previous page: © Estate of Hans Feibusch/Bridgeman Images. Facing page: © ADAGP, Paris and DACS, London 2016



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despite early stints working in the music business, have both carved out careers in the antiques industry. 'We like to imagine what the house might have contained when Gilbertius lived here and feel that his spirit lives on,' says Lisa.

After the couple moved here with their daughter Tallulah four years ago, they made another discovery. 'It's believed that the house was built on the site of King Alfred the Great's palace,' says Lisa. 'There have been various digs in the garden with archaeologists hunting for remains of the palace. They haven't found anything yet but they're convinced. Not many people realise the connection between King Alfred and >



THIS PAGE TOP French and English studio pottery hangs on the kitchen wall – the hand-engraved brass charger dates from the 17th century. The farmhouse table is Victorian, while the orange light fitting above it is 1970s. The plants are from Coates Florist THIS PAGE ABOVE The oldest part of the house is to the left-hand side – the door leads to the kitchen. The layout of this part of the house is only one room wide, which means there are windows on both sides of the rooms FACING PAGE Lisa covered the Regency chair in the kitchen in a *Toile de Jouy* fabric. On the dresser (a second-hand find) Marc and Lisa have displayed their collection of jugs, including Sunderland lustreware – for more on lustreware turn to page 91



At the moment Marc and Lisa are attracted to Grand Tour souvenirs and like to mix their antiques with striking 20th-century artwork

Chippenham so one of our missions is to get a statue of him erected in the town centre!’ Lisa laughs. Despite its colourful history, it was the house’s original features that drew Lisa and Marc to it. Beneath layers of paint covering the Georgian wall panelling in the dining room, they discovered the original paint that the couple were fortunately able to match. The master bedroom contains an early 18th-century fireplace, and an unusual – and surprising – barrel vaulted ceiling added by Lake. ‘We could see that the house had potential and that it would be a challenge, which was just what we wanted,’ says Lisa.

Lisa and Marc’s taste evades labelling. Aside from the library, inspired in part by the varied collections on display at Snowhill Manor in Gloucestershire, there’s the Empire-style guest bedroom and pink-hued French master bedroom. ‘We don’t try to emulate a particular style but like to mix everything together. Each room starts with a sketchy plan and gradually evolves from there,’ says Lisa. Their method clearly works. Each room is rich, warm and filled with layers of history. And despite the treasures at every turn, it’s the sort of place that encourages cosying up with the dogs in front of the fire. It’s not stuffy or precious. Much like its inhabitants.

Over the years, Lisa and Marc have gone through different phases of collecting: Lisa’s first passion was for African tribal masks and, for a long time, both had a penchant for antique glass. At the moment they’re attracted to Grand Tour souvenirs and antiques, and like to mix their antiques with striking 20th-century artwork, which shows their talent for combining eras in their home. ➤

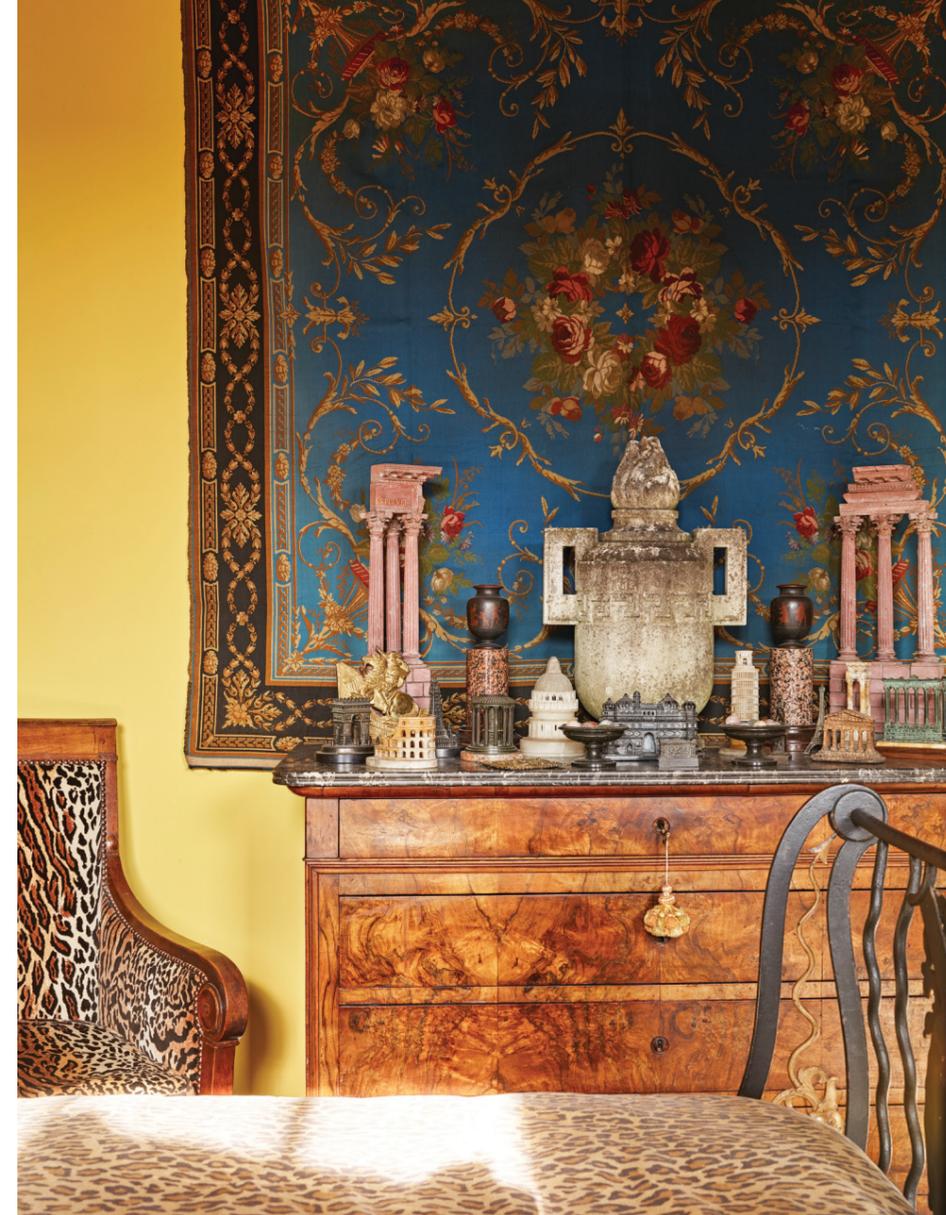


‘Most religions of the world are represented in the library – there’s a little Buddha head, Indian figures and Catholic memorabilia,’ says Lisa. The carved giltwood altar panel, hanging above the fireplace, is 19th-century and belonged to a church, as did the giltwood glazed cabinet (from an 18th-century Italian altar) to the left of the fireplace

ABOVE ‘This is a real cabinet of curiosities room,’ says Lisa of the library. In the right-hand corner lurks a treasured piece of early to mid 19th-century samurai armour, inspired by trips to Snowhill Manor. Displayed on the table is a 19th-century demon mask, a 15th-century Mayan tripod ‘rattle’ bowl and a Tang dynasty ‘Laowai’ tomb figure of a European. RIGHT The continental giltwood mirror in the hallway dates from the 19th century while the table is English Regency. The 19th-century Chinese vase belonged to the last Aga Khan and was bought from Roseberys. The sculpture is by Hans Feibusch. One of Lisa’s favourite things in the house is the 1775 rare encaustic Wedgwood vase that sits in the middle of the table



Lisa and Marc spent 17 years as directors at Roseberys auctioneers where, over this time, their tastes became well-honed



LEFT Part of Lisa and Marc's collection of Grand Tour souvenirs, dating from the 19th century, sits on a commode from the same era. A French early 20th-century textile hangs behind FACING PAGE The painting to the right of the French late 19th-century bed (bought at Roseberys) in the guest bedroom is a late 19th-century grisaille painting by an unknown artist and depicts a classical figure

Little black book

Emmaus, Pau, Chemin Salié, 64230 Lescar, France.
emmaus-lescar-pau.com

'This is the largest Emmaus depot in France and I've found some amazing things there, including the 1940s drinks trolley in the sitting room and the painted bedroom suite in the dressing room. They sell everything from antique furniture to linens, architectural salvage and vintage clothing,' says Lisa.

The Giant Shepton Flea Market, Royal Bath & West Showground, Shepton Mallet, BA4 6QN. 01278 784912; sheptonflea.com

'This flea market always has a wide range of items – from salvage to high end – and I usually find a few interesting items here.'

The Vintage Bazaar, held in Frome and Devizes. thevintagebazaar.blogspot.co.uk

'I love the selection of antique and vintage textiles sold at these fairs, held at The Corn Exchange in Devizes and The Cheese and Grain, Market Yard, Frome.'

Wellcome Collection, 183 Euston Road, London, NW1 2BE. 020 7611 2222; wellcomecollection.org

'The gift shop at the Wellcome Collection – a museum displaying intriguing medical apparatus and curios from the past – is great for quirky gifts, including all things 'skull' related!'

Unusually, neither Lisa nor Marc's parents were interested in antiques while they were growing up. In fact, Lisa remembers her mother having to be forced to keep any of her family's heirlooms (eventually she relented when it came to a Royal Doulton majolica garden stool). Regardless, Lisa discovered local antiques shops when she was eight years old. Such was her fascination that when – in her early twenties – she was working for a record label in London (where she met Marc) she would spend every lunch break viewing sales nearby at Sotheby's auction house.

The couple later spent 17 years as directors of Roseberys auctioneers where, over this time, their tastes became well-honed. Now, when it comes to buying, they both have clear ideas of what they like. 'Working at an auction house is like working in a sweet ➤



ABOVE The chair in the entrance hall is a Regency mahogany hall chair. The 'coins' in the case above are 19th-century plaster casts of Renaissance medallions



ABOVE The master bedroom leads through to a large dressing room. The painting above the original fireplace is by society artist Cathleen Mann. The table is Italian – the marble top is inlaid with pietra dura panels. The shoe (sitting on a 1950s snakeskin radio) is one of Lisa and Marc’s favourite pieces. The dressing table and armoire were both bought in France. RIGHT The late 19th-century chaise in the master bedroom previously belonged to journalist Suzy Menkes. The painting above the commode is by Geoffrey Rhoades and dates from 1928



Don't be scared. If you're not sure about an antique after getting it home, you can always resell it

shop. You still have to bid along with everyone else but you do get a preview of what's coming up for sale. You get to know what's common and what's special and it trains your eye,' says Lisa. Although they try to limit their buying ('we don't have the space!') Lisa's weekly trips to auction houses for her business sometimes result in new special pieces finding their way into their own home. And does she have any tips for buying antiques? 'Don't be scared,' she says. 'If you're not sure about something after getting it home, you can always resell. That's the great thing about antiques. Unlike new things, they will always have a resale value.' ■