

Architectural Antiques

Weekly Times Column

By Warren Joel

Architectural Antiques refers to parts of a building, as opposed to the furniture and effects within the building. Recycling bits of buildings has been round for many years and tends to go through cycles from time to time.

In the building industry and in the design of new buildings there is a trend to incorporate beautiful old parts of other buildings. The key decorator item used is the recycling of the classic light fittings. This is not surprising given we have all been in a lovely home and admired the crystal chandelier hanging from the ceiling. The use of antique and recycled lights has been round for many years and has remained very popular. One only need go to a modern lighting shop to see the reproductions made to look like the antiques.

But what about the other parts of the old house that could gain a second life with a new building? That classic decorator item could be the beautiful old solid front door refitted into a brand new building. And when they fit the recycled door ensure all the old fittings are left on, or even the original blistered paint as these will only add character. Why would you paint and cover up the old character and charm of an old door with a brand new paint job? I understand you may need to fit new locks but just add them to what is there already. The use of recycled lead light windows could be a striking feature of any new building.

Don't limit yourself to the feature items; your building parts could be as simple as old corrugated iron. During the week I had the pleasure of looking round a horse stable block that has been converted into accommodation. The functional steel beams and roof trusses have been clad in old iron and recycled timber. I can tell you the place looked fantastic, full of character and charm that went well past the original building.

The diversity of the recycling will only be limited by your imagination, and your budget.

Next week: The Future of Antiques.

Free Valuation for Weekly Times readers.

Byjoel will do a free valuation of your collectables via email. If you send a photo and description of your item to hwtvaluations@byjoel.com.au I will access the item and respond.

Warren Joel

Warren is a third generation auctioneer and valuer specialising in Art, Antiques and Collectables, accredited by the Commonwealth in 2002 different areas of collectables.

www.byjoel.com.au