

Everything old is new again

Reproduction vintage furniture, or faux vintage, may not suit all tastes, but it's certainly hot for 2014.

Bridgett Jessop, a Calgary-based interior designer at Debutante Design, says reproduced vintage furniture should be used sparingly, so your living space doesn't look like it came straight from an earlier era.

"I think a whole room in a vintage style could come across as Grandma-chic or a little bit tacky, but I think if you have one or two pieces per room, then you could pull it off," she says.



BRIDGETT JESSOP

Vintage styles are coming back into fashion because there's a generation of people who have lived with that style before, and love it, and also because there's a younger generation who haven't seen vintage styles before and are drawn to the retro esthetic.

"Like all vintage pieces that make it into style again, it's usually because of clean, classic lines," Jessop says. "Either you love it, or you've never seen it and think it's exciting."

Remakes of older styles, such as Ikea's Standmon wing chair, which originally was in the company's catalogue in the 1950s, are making a comeback.

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Furniture reminiscent of a vintage era doesn't have to be heavy or Victorian, Jessop says. Following Ikea's lead, reproduction furniture often comes in a more modern fabric or colour.



SHANNON BUCKLEY

"It could be painted a fun colour or refinished and then could create interest and become a conversation piece, in an otherwise modern room," Jessop says. "It wouldn't be ordinary."

One example of that is the beanbag chair, straight from the 1970s. This type of furniture has a nostalgic flare, but as Shannon Buckley found out, it comes with a modern twist.

Buckley, who is the Calgary dealer for Ambient Lounge products, says her bean-filled furniture is much more stylish and cool.

"These are not the blobs we knew as children," Buckley says. "It's not your kids' beanbag, it's adult beanbag furniture."

Ambient Lounge products are entirely customizable. "You can fill it a lot, or you can fill it a little," Buckley says. "These pieces are easy to customize. They're polystyrene beads, though some people fill it with other stuff. One lady filled it with buckwheat. Some people filled it with recycled beans from other beanbags. Some people filled it with chips of recycled foam."

Ambient Lounge has been around for eight years and is hugely popular outside Canada. South Korea, for example, sells \$4 million worth of Ambient Lounge products each year. North America is its last frontier.

Products includes chairs, sofas, loungers, ottomans, tables, pet beds and more, made for both indoor and outdoor use.

"I think it's brilliant," Buckley says. "It's really created a new niche in furniture,



THE '70S BEANBAG CHAIR GETS AN UPDATED LOOK WITH COOL, FUNKY COLOURS AND STYLES. SHOWN ARE THOSE AVAILABLE AT AMBIENT LOUNGE.

Michelle Hofer photos

called soft furniture. I think it brings fun back to furniture. I think it brings affordable comfort back to furniture."

■ Jessica Pattison



IKEA STANDMON WING CHAIR