



More Beautiful with Age

MOLLY BOWES AND BOB SOLOMON (above) own Patina Haus in Lake Zurich, bringing new life to everyday objects, as well as sourcing interesting and unique finds for the home. “At Patina Haus, our goal is to help clients blend what they already have in their homes with new items,” Bowes says. “Or, better yet, help them reinvent existing pieces into design statements.” As an example, a silver 1920s Champagne bottle chiller from Toot’s Shor Restaurant was repurposed into a stunning orchid holder—creating a new conversation piece, and transcending the item’s original purpose to become eye-catching home décor.

Bowes is passionate about finding vintage, unique, or eclectic one-of-a-kind items and blending them with other retail finds. “Not every idea needs to be a big one,” she says. “When adding color for a change of season, consider repurposing those holiday lanterns for holding your spring, floral, or Easter accents. It makes for fresh twists on something that is still out from winter, but allows for a whole new visual.” When February rolls around and it is grey outside, Bowes introduces some green into her space. “It helps me feel better, and it brightens the mood for others,” Bowes says. “Simply adding some blossoms to a clear bottle or vase can do the trick.”

The charming home and garden shop is constantly refreshed with new items on its walls, shelves, and tucked away areas. Creating something new and visually interesting can

include trying the unexpected, Bowes says. “I once bought a cool rug and used it to cover an old coffee table. It looked so amazing, who would have guessed,” she said.

Patina Haus carries artificial grass table runners that are fluffy and soft to the touch. They can be used for three seasons in the home, perfect for coffee tables, or bedrooms where a bit of green is all that’s needed. Bowes suggests cutting the grass to fit into a serving tray, and adding some bunnies or glass candles for instant spring room décor.

“How many people have things sitting in their cupboards waiting for reinventing? Take those hardly-ever-used crystal punch glasses and place a small succulent plant into them. It’s refreshing to be able to see Mother Nature’s dirt through the crystal with the green growing inside.”

The shop is a dream come true for Bowes who loves to decorate *and* keep busy, says Solomon, who helps find their unique wares. If you are looking for a home and garden shop with a blend of modern and vintage, you’ll be pleased to find this gem.

Patina Haus is located just north of 29 S. Old Rand Road and Main Street in downtown Lake Zurich. To learn more, visit www.patinahaus.com, or call 224-677-5366. 

.....
Linda M. Barrett is a photographer and writer. Learn more at www.lindambarrettproductions.com.

