



HOME The New Americana

>> If the idea of perching on the honeycomb seat of a stainless-steel-framed chair in a hip downtown loft leaves you cold, then 2010 is going to be your year.

When Alexis Contant revealed her picks for the top interiors trends for the new decade, one trend stood above the rest: “New Americana.” In her annual predictions report, the vice president and general manager of the Boston Design Center noted that while modern profiles continue to proliferate, tried-and-true traditional furnishings are slowly creeping back into the home.

“‘New Americana’ is a trend

of evolution, not revolution,” says Contant. “The beautifully rendered designs show movement toward hand craftsmanship and away from the hard lines of midcentury minimalism.”

And yet, they mesh so well. Ponder, for example, the pairing of an antique braided rug with a clean-lined sofa or a rough-hewn hope chest standing in for a coffee table in an otherwise contemporary loft. Traditional materials and vintage accessories lend warmth to otherwise cold interiors.

Better still, Boston is chockablock with the stuff. Retail outfits like Hud-

son and Patch NYC in the South End and Acquire in the North End offer a mix of new and antique furniture. Up for a road trip? Red Chair Antiques in Peterborough, New Hampshire, is a treasure trove of vintage linens and accessories (albeit Danish, not American — but no less enticing). And at the Boston Design Center, a quick survey of the many showrooms confirms Contant’s observation — what’s old is suddenly new again.

“Because ‘New Americana’ is rooted in historic design,” says Contant, “this simple and elegant trend allows you to blend traditional and modern styles harmoniously.”