

secondhand COOL

Rescue your budget—and the environment—by snagging stylish deals at these sources.

A Selig chair for \$150? Karil Yawger was sure the Craigslist posting was too good to be true. Pieces exactly like this one—a teak midcentury modern design by the coveted Danish manufacturer—were selling on eBay for \$500 and up, plus shipping. Skeptical, Yawger drove 30 miles from her home in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, to check it out. When she saw the original tag, she knew the chair was a steal. “I said to my husband, ‘Put it in the car quick because they must not know what they have,’” Karil says. “It’s really beautiful.”

How did this artist and mother of three get hooked on secondhand bargains? “I really like nice things, and when we couldn’t afford them, I had to get creative,” says Karil (who’s currently on the hunt for “sculptural” lamps—gently used, of course). “It’s thrilling to get things for a cheaper price.”

Whether you’re lusting after marble floor tiles or a Victorian sideboard, these sources can help you net some Earth-friendly style on the cheap.



Selig Z Chair photo by Terry Anderson, planet modern.com: “In my auction on eBay it sold for \$500. It would go for three times that in a trendy modern store.”

eBay.com

If you haven’t shopped eBay in awhile, it’s time to log back on. This ever-popular website sells millions of fashion-forward items, from Kate Spade china to silk curtains. “It’s a huge paradise for bargain hunting,” says eBay Power Seller and book author Lynn Dralle (thequeenofauctions.com). She’s having her best year ever, in part thanks to green consumers who’d rather buy used than new. Shop smart by using the “Advanced Search” function to save your favorite searches (like “crystal chandelier”); eBay will email you daily about matching posts. What’s brand new? The free eBay app for your iPhone.

Craigslist.org

Craigslist works (and looks) like the newspaper classifieds: The stripped-down site has no fancy graphics and is organized by city so buyers can search for things they want close to home. Craigslist’s appeal? It’s a great place to shop for big, heavy items that

are too expensive to sell (and ship) on eBay—think oversized armoires and bulky wood flooring. Typically you must pick up purchases in person, and most transactions are cash only. Many offers are snapped up within hours, so be prepared to act quickly.

Freecycle.org

As the name says, everything on this website—a nonprofit grassroots movement all about reuse—is free, including sign-up. The downside: No pictures.

ReStores

Open to the public, Habitat for Humanity’s 650 ReStores benefit the nonprofit and sell discounted new and used building materials, furniture and appliances. Most items are donated by individuals, contractors or demo crews, so inventory varies. (Translation: Shop often to scout the best deals.) To find one, enter your ZIP code in the search box at habitat.org.