

Excerpt: "Antiques of the Future," by Lisa Roberts

Anyone could have a museum-quality collection,  
if they only knew how!

This book will introduce you to a collection of award-winning  
designer products, many of which are found in museums, and  
all of which are relatively affordable and accessible.

But first, some background about the collection and the collector:

I started collecting designer household products about 25 years ago. I had just changed  
careers from architecture to home furnishing design. And I wasn't the only one!  
Coincidentally, a trend was emerging in the early 1980s in which world-famous  
architects and industrial designers, such as Michael Graves and Philippe Starck, were  
asked to design all sorts of everyday objects for the home.

As part of the industry, I witnessed this explosion of extraordinary design of very  
ordinary objects and started collecting the ones I liked: corkscrews and vacuum cleaners,  
toilet brushes and tea kettles.

I knew that some of them would only be in the market for a short time since trendy  
designs often have limited production runs. So I jumped at the chance to get them while  
they were still available. At the same time, other objects caught my eye for the opposite  
reason. These had wide and enduring market appeal, becoming the "instant classics" of  
their time.

I collected more than 300 of these distinctively designed products during the next 25  
years. Looking for the best designs around, I read magazines and books; consulted  
curators, store owners, and designers; went to exhibitions; and surfed the web.

The collection began to take on a personality. But how to describe it? It wasn't fine art,  
because each of the items had a practical use. It wasn't craft, since everything was mass-  
produced. And the term "collectible" didn't seem to do the objects justice, since many of  
them had won distinguished awards and were in museums.

I finally named my collection and defined it as...

Rubber X-Bands were featured  
in the 2004 exhibition  
"Humble Masterpieces," at the Museum of Modern Art, New York.

Antiques of the Future

Highly designed  
contemporary products  
that will rise in value once

they are no longer in production  
because they represent the  
best of design in their time.

[www.antiquesofthefuture.com](http://www.antiquesofthefuture.com)

Pipe Dreams watering can was designed by Jerszy Seymour, whose work has been exhibited at the Design Museum in London and the Salone del Mobile in Milan.

#### Criteria

To be included in my collection, an object had to have one or more of the following attributes:

- 1 Exhibited in museums or included in permanent museum collections
- 2 Designed by a notable architect or designer
- 3 Manufactured by design-oriented companies
- 4 Recipient of major design awards
- 5 Widely published in magazines or books

Since many of these objects are still being produced and sold, their future value is yet to be determined. But some of the earlier products in this collection, the ones that are no longer in production, have indeed gone up in value. See: *The Future Is Now*.

A chair is a very  
difficult object to design,  
a skyscraper  
is almost easier...  
Ludwig Mies Van Der Rohe

Lisa S. Roberts  
Foreword by Michael Graves  
Photographs by Kelly Turso

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