At a time when we’re buying for our homes more than ever before, Editorial Director Joanna Saltz talks to five experts about how to do it more thoughtfully.

Joanna Saltz: How have shopping patterns changed within the past two years?

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Jenny Dina Kirschner: I would often shop locally with my clients so they could see and feel the dining room chair they wanted. We haven’t been able to do that quite as much, so I’ve continued using my go-to online sources like 1stDibs and Chairish.

Margaret Schwartz: As a dealer, we’ve had to adapt as well. I only started buying virtually in January 2021. It was difficult to remember to ask the right questions—to get photos of every angle. With time, the people I worked with understood what I was looking for.

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Anna Liesemeyer: I love the challenge of finding something to repurpose—and it doesn’t have to be new to you. You can repurpose what you already own and love, even if it’s a vase for five years in a row.

Margaret: I’m excited to see what skilled craftsmanship
ensure you get something that’s personalized and going to last.

Jo: That’s a huge piece of this. The Internet gives you access to so many smaller makers. So, what is one change you wish people would adopt in their shopping habits?

Margaret: Always buy the best quality you can afford, and ask a lot of questions.

Jenny: I give personal examples. I have a vintage Baker dining room set that’s been in my family for more than 40 years. It includes eight chairs that we’ve reupholstered six times now, and they are still in perfect condition!

Jo: How can you tell what pieces are long-lasting?

Anna: It’s a learning curve. You can check certain aspects, like if it’s real wood, and go to trusted makers. Investing in small business owners for custom pieces can also grow out of this movement away from disposability, including new technology. Hopefully, there will be a real boom.

Corey: There’s also a focus on building generational wealth and equity for all people, which includes furniture, antique china, and other pieces passed down through generations.

Maggie: It’s not a race. Take your time building and investing in items for your dream home.

Anna: Shop online antiques markets if possible, or look at what you already have to breathe new life into it. Let your home evolve!