

Quality Furniture for Less

Moving into a new apartment or home today is a difficult and expensive process. After the stress of a housing search, cleaning a new space, and unpacking boxes, it's difficult to find the time and resources to furnish a new home. Worse yet, many affordable furniture options from big retailers are constructed of increasingly flimsy, low-quality materials and often require replacement within the first few years. Your grandparents turned out to be right when they said, "Things just aren't built like they used to be."

Luckily quality options from years past are still available at Michaan's Annex Auctions. Every month, we sell hundreds of gently used furniture pieces, each featuring a unique and

beautifully crafted design that will last decades longer than the modern alternative. Better yet, gently used furniture from Michaan's Auctions regularly sells at prices more attractive than in-store options.

In this series, we will highlight a few examples of furniture and other home goods recently sold at Michaan's Annex Auction and compare them with their supposed equivalent from a retailer such as IKEA, Wayfair, and Target.

Armoire

Let's start with the IKEA BRIMNES, Wardrobe with two doors which retails for \$169. This small armoire comes with a clothes rail and a small interior shelf which allows for the

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storage of a modest amount of clothing. Unfortunately, the item is constructed from cheap particle and fiberboard and necessitates wall mounting to prevent the piece from tipping under the weight of clothing. Additionally, the styling, while versatile, is noticeably plain and minimalistic.

In comparison, is a handsome **Painted Armoire Cabinet** from Michaan's Auctions November Annex Sale which could have sold for \$3. The armoire boasts a similar storage capacity to the retail alternative, including a

clothes rail and plenty of space for folded clothes below, but is painted with fine details, including floral elements, and is constructed fully from wood. Additionally, the cabinet features a number of premium features, including beautifully sculpted crown molding in the feet, columns, and head of the cabinet, as well as premium hardware at the hinges and handles. Rather than fading into the walls of your living space, this armoire makes a bold statement of style and purposeful design.

Sofa

Let's continue with a look at IKEA's sofa range and focus on a mid-range offering, the KIVIK, Sofa which is sold for \$749. The sofa is a classic design that takes few risks. Squared-off corners and medium-firm cushions will certainly do the job but are unlikely to inspire interest or envy amongst your

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houseguests. Worse, the materials show signs of cost-cutting, most notably a polyester cushion cover, and if you're interested in a color other than grey, expect to pay between \$50 and \$150 extra for more desirable colors.

For a showstopping option from Michaan's Auctions November Annex Sale, consider the **Federal Style Mahogany Sofa**, which could have sold for \$500. The difference between this option and a contemporary retail offering is most obvious in its design, which eschews bland minimalism for a beautifully designed wood frame. The piece includes incredible details such as claw feet and natural elements in its mahogany wood frame. Mahogany is a hardwood that resists warping, splitting, and cracking making it an excellent choice for furniture which will stand the test of time. This unique and distinctive

sofa will grab the attention of anyone who sees it.

Don't like this particular style? We sold nine other sofas in the same sale, most for under \$100.



Next Sale

As you can see, Michaan's Auctions Annex Sales can offer a higher quality item for a lower price than major retailers. Registration and bidding are intuitive processes and can be done 100% online! You don't even need to watch the auction, simply submit an absentee or online bid and check back at the end of the sale to see if you've won the item.

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The December Annex Auction is being held Monday, December 11th; Tuesday, December 12th; and Wednesday, December 13th. This venue gives collectors a wide variety of jewelry, fine art, decorative arts, furniture, Asian art, stamps, and coins to choose from.

The auction includes over 2,500 lots, most estimated under \$300.

Michaan's Auctions catalogs can be viewed on our website (www.michaans.com), LiveAuctioneers, and on our Michaan's Live site. Bid live in our gallery or remotely via absentee, phone, or online.

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