

# Showcase your top collectibles

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Got a bevy of buttons, 10 or so teddies or a can full of coins?

Showcase them for all to see.

That's the advice of interior designer Verna Leask who urges her clients to display their collectibles from buttons to teddy bears for all to see.

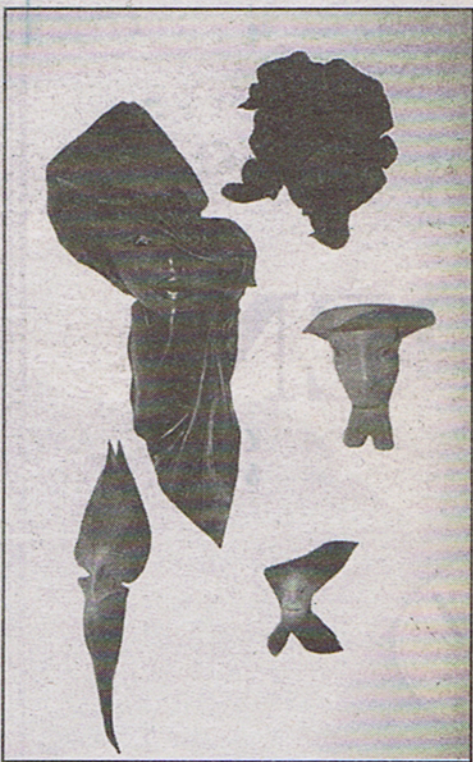
"I think a lot of people have a real passion for their collectibles," says Leask, of Verna Leask Design and Contracting Ltd. "It's nice for them to see all the time."

By treating the items as art, Leask says it's easy to work them into your decor.

Leask says displays for collections can be as easy as propping up some dolls on a bed or framing a stamp collection.

Antique clothing can be set up as a display in an entrance or in a guest bedroom. Glass display cases turned into coffee tables become conversation pieces. Like materials grouped together can add a new dimension to any home.

Leask suggests taking precautions for valuable items by keeping dust and fingerprints away from susceptible articles.



Just about any like item can be hung together as a decorative display—these masks, for instance.

## Where to start:

Here's a list of some of the big lures in the collecting world that can be displayed:

- **Movie posters:** An original *Casablanca* goes for \$12,000 US, while *King Kong* carries a giant ape-sized pricetag of \$100,000 US.

- **Quilts:** "It's an American art that's been handed down," Jan Reese says about quiltwork. Reese co-owns The Quilt Patch Company in Nashville and sells hand-made quilts, 80% of which, she says, are stitched by Amish women.

- **Small structures:** Dollhouses, figurines, architectural models and even some birdhouses are very hot. Like quilts, these structures allow a collector to create a world and tell a story.