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HOUSE & HOME

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The nesting instinct takes flight at Halifax's Henhouse.

What: Henhouse, a rustic shop tucked away in Halifax's south end that's home to restored Maritime antiques and new custom-designed pine furniture, finished in French polish with beeswax. "We start the aging process, and you can take it from there," says co-owner Sappho Griffin.

Where: 5802 South St., Halifax (902) 423-4499, www.henhouse.ca.

Best buys: Three-drawer side tables (\$450 to \$595); antique-look TV armoires (from \$2,000) with sleek hardware, drawers sized for CDs and a lower cupboard with space for a stereo.

What's flying out the door: Harvest tables that seat 12 (\$1,850) with a six-foot-long base that stretches to nine feet with the leaves extended.

What's coming: Inspired by their vintage fabric collection — now used to make vivid throw pillows — the team plans to develop a line of hand-dyed, organic bed linens.

Owners: The seeds for Henhouse were sown a decade ago when Sappho Griffin and Denise Coultter met while planting trees out west. When Griffin married a Maritimer, she convinced her friend to come east.

Since: May 2002.

Sound bite: "We like things that impart a sense of style as well as a sense of history," says Griffin, "whether they're antiques that have been well-loved for a century, works by local artisans or quirky vintage lamps and ceramics." —AMY PUGSLEY FRASER



TOP LEFT: The owners have collected vintage linens for years and now use them to make down-filled pillows (\$56 to \$125). Chair, \$145.

TOP RIGHT: Custom-designed furniture, handpainted and hand-finished, fills the store. Green and white folk-art dresser, \$1,350; blue-grey sideboard, \$1,575.

ABOVE LEFT: Owners Denise Coultter (left) and Sappho Griffin with dog Ella. Table, \$1,250; chairs, \$225 each; handpainted porcelain dog dishes, \$25 to \$75 each; wool tea cosies, \$45 each.

ABOVE RIGHT: Colourful hand-painted porcelain knobs (\$8 each) are imported from India.

Top right: Photography by Janet Kimber/Left top and bottom: Photography by Luis Albuquerque; shirt, Gap; hangings, Ikea