

# Finders Keepers

The secret to this charming Oklahoma home:  
thrifed pieces, and lots of them!

BY JULIANA LABIANCA



Nicole and Vince Lombardo with their children

Life is one big treasure hunt for Nicole Lombardo. The Oklahoma native grew up scouring garage sales with her mom, who'd give her a little cash and encourage her to poke around. Over time, Nicole expanded her searches to antiques malls, estate sales, thrift stores and flea markets, and decorated wherever she was living with her finds. "Old items have a worn quality that makes a room feel comfortable and everyone feel at home," she says. She's always picking up something: "If I love it, I'll find a place for it!" Nicole gets hot tips from shopkeepers and subscribes to emails from estate sale companies. Last year when she decided to update several areas of her house in Edmond, OK, with help from designer Heather Lay, they had a whole collection of furniture, artwork, earthenware and rugs to work with. Nicole takes comfort in those pieces every day. "It's so cool to run your hand along a table that has been around for a hundred years," she says. "It reminds you that you are part of a bigger story."

## Family Room

Homeowner Nicole Lombardo decorated this inviting seating area with vintage items: She found the wicker basket on the coffee table at an estate sale and the runner beneath at an antiques mall.

## Kitchen

When Nicole and Heather renovated this space, they added an island with tons of storage, bronze pendant lights from Visual Comfort & Co. and barstools from Williams Sonoma. Nicole's vintage touch: antique cutting boards in different shapes and sizes.



## Dining Room

Nicole collects still-life paintings of food, and she created a gallery wall with them in the dining room. "I love the beautiful frames just as much as the pictures," she says. The buffet underneath was part of an 1800s English pine hutch; Nicole just took off the top.



## Family Table

When you have six people at mealtime, you need a big table! Nicole discovered this 10-foot pine one covered in dust in a garage at an estate sale and bought it for \$500—"the deal of the century!" she says. She cleaned it up with mineral oil and paired it with Scandinavian-style oak chairs from Ethnicraft. The green cabinets, painted Bancho by Farrow & Ball, hold china and her stash of vintage cow creamers.





## Main Bedroom

One easy way to redecorate is to move pieces around your home. Nicole imported the old wood bench (an estate sale gem) from the front entry and the vintage Turkish rug (a flea market find) from the family room. The walls here and in the office are painted Sherwin-Williams Grizzle Gray.

## Office

This is where the Lombardos like to read, so the room had to be comfy. Nicole splurged on an Arhaus leather sofa with a deep seat. The kilim rug is from Craigslist. "I got it for a few hundred bucks because it's a bit faded, but that's why I like it," she says. The coffee table is made of wood from an old barrel.



## Library

The kids do their homework at this desk, which Nicole calls Grand Central Station. Its original home was a New York public library in the 1950s, and it turned up at an Oklahoma estate sale. The bookshelves hold Nicole's collection of cookbooks—a bunch of Ree's are there! "The first book I ever waited in line to have signed was one of hers," she says.