

Restoration Experts Reveal Their Best-Kept Secrets

# VICTORIAN HOMES

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# It's Easy to Handle

Looking to renovate your door hardware or finally find that matching set? Award-winning interior designer **Lisa McDennon** shares her insider secrets for finding the right product for your home's needs.

BY JENNIFER MYERS



### An Eye For Elegance ^

All Sherle Wagner products are originals, from design concept to production, and are created by Old World artisans using authentic techniques. If you are looking for timeless elegance but can't find the antique hardware to match, try Sherle Wagner products, like the Acanthus Leaf Door Lever in Butler Silver (\$318) or the Empire Door Lever in Antique Gold (\$334). Call (212) 758-3300 for a stockist near you, or shop online at [www.sherlewagner.com](http://www.sherlewagner.com).

### Celebrated Artisans >

SA Baxter chose the Vines Suite, conceived by Los Angeles-based designer Peter Schifando, for its 2009 Artisan Series of door hardware. SA Baxter and Schifando worked together to produce the Vines Suite after being inspired by the magnificent 1893 bronze door hinge from 19th-century American hardware maker, Yale & Towne Company. The suite of hardware includes door levers, back plates, escutcheons, rosettes and cabinet knobs. Call (800) 407-4295 or visit [www.sabaxter.com](http://www.sabaxter.com) for pricing and how to find SA Baxter products near you.



### < An Antiquing Treasure Trove

You can shop on Liz's Antique Hardware online, but you'd miss the glorious experience of wandering up and down the aisles. If you're not going to be in the Los Angeles area anytime soon, don't fret—the Web site is so easy to navigate you'll still be able to find many treasures for your home. Antique hardware is the backbone of this business, and to prove it, they offer a complete selection of door, window and furniture hardware, lighting and accessories c.1860 - 1970. Shop by category or type on the site, but for ease of access, Liz's Antique Hardware has broken down periods in the Style section, including Eastlake and Victorian. If you're looking for pieces to complete a matching set or need to find more of a particular style, Liz's Antique Hardware should be first on your list. If you can't find what you need online at [www.lahardware.com](http://www.lahardware.com), call (323) 939-4403 for some friendly assistance.



### Custom Craftwork >

The Nanz Company has 15 wonderful door hardware suites to choose from, but what is remarkable about the company is that it will take almost any custom order. It uses the latest cutting-edge software along with traditional pen and paper techniques to design and produce any type of custom hardware needed for a project. If you have one set or just a few pieces of door hardware that you'd like to reproduce for the rest of your home, The Nanz Company can help. Just send the floor plans so the staff can assess your needs and provide a quote; do note that pricing is based on product and finish selection as well as the size and complexity of the project. The Nanz Company has three showrooms in New York, one in Los Angeles and one in Chicago, but please contact them at (212) 367-7000 for a retailer near you. To view all product lines and for more information, visit Nanz online on [www.nanz.com](http://www.nanz.com).





A Great Opener ▾

This front-door hardware with traditional styling was built for durability. Hickory Hardware’s Sechel handset comes in a satin nickel finish on top of the 100% solid-forged brass lockset. For added security, the strike plate is reinforced with solid steel and the lock pins are pick-resistant. Hickory Hardware features related hardware such as doorknobs and dummy handsets, as well as many complementary hardware pieces. For a complete range of products and a list of dealer locations, visit [www.hickoryhardware.com](http://www.hickoryhardware.com) or call (877) 556-2918.



Ring My Bell ▲

Don’t ignore the doorbell! The front door is an important indicator of the inhabitants’ style and taste, so make sure you choose a doorbell that complements the front of the house. New Jersey-based Von Morris has several solid-forged, hand-polished bell pushes, like these beaded doorbells shown here. They are available in small, medium or oblong and have a highly detailed beaded design that will enhance any doorway. And don’t forget the knocker for the true Victorian feel! The classic design of Von Morris’ Victorian Door Knocker also pairs nicely with several of its door hardware ranges. The husband-and-wife team call themselves “the new kids on the block,” since their company was started in 1991. Yet, this company only produces their range of architectural products to the highest and most exacting standards, and also offer a bespoke design service. Eric Morris is not only part owner, he’s also the lead designer and over the years has amassed an incredible collection of antique locks, handles and accessories that he uses for inspiration. For more information on pricing and where to find a dealer near you, call (800) 646-6888 or visit [www.vonmorris.com](http://www.vonmorris.com).



< For Your Windsor Castle

The team at House of Antique Hardware does not believe that there are shortcuts to reproducing the past—and neither do we! That’s why we have to feature them here, where we can showcase their tireless pursuit of perfection. We love the Windsor Pocket Door Pull in antique brass, shown here with or without a keyhole. The original design was introduced by Reading Hardware around 1885, and the detailed Aesthetic design still resonates. House of Antique has reproduced this door pull using a lost wax casting to capture every fine detail of the original and has used a golden antique patina with the hand finishing. The pocket-door pulls are \$61 and can be ordered online at [www.houseofantiquehardware.com](http://www.houseofantiquehardware.com) or by calling (888) 223-2545.

Your Very Own Crystal Ball >

Glass artist Tracy Glover uses classic Venetian glass techniques to create her handcrafted doorknobs. This specific doorknob uses the Italian Primavera process, which imparts a bubbled quality to the surface. Victorian crystal doorknobs were Tracy’s inspiration for the mouthblown glass handles, and her goal was to devise a modern update. Mouthblown glass Prospect Hill Doorknob, “Primavera” colorway and oil-rubbed bronze hardware: \$260 for a set of two knobs with spindle. The doorknobs are also available in brushed brash or brushed nickel. Available direct from the artist online by visiting [www.tracygloverstudio.com](http://www.tracygloverstudio.com).







Grand Decoration >

If distinctive style is their goal, Nostalgic Warehouse's Grandeur line has achieved it in spades. We, of course, find their Grande Victorian longplate a favorite, but we can't decide if we like the Portofino lever or the 24% lead crystal Fontainebleu knob best! But don't worry—if you don't like either of them, the Grandeur line gives customers complete flexibility to mix and match any knob or lever with the longplate or rosette of their choosing. The Grande Victorian line was designed to be reminiscent of the late 1800s embellished styles but with the quality and security of today's technology. The products are all optimized for easy installation and are warranted for life. Visit [www.grandeur-nw.com](http://www.grandeur-nw.com) for more information, dealer locations and ordering, or call (800) 522-7336.

SHOP SMART

Lisa McDennon shares not only her top tips on purchasing door and cabinet hardware but also a few pitfalls to watch out for.

- Quality comes first when buying hardware for an historic home. There's no excuse for scrimping when it comes to craftsmanship.
- Scale is vital, especially when ordering from a catalog. Ensure that the measurements are in line with your door, drawer or cabinet. "Make sure you can get a sample or see it in a showroom. It may look completely different on a flat page than it does in real life," Lisa advises.
- How does it feel in your hand? "You'll be living with this hardware for years, so it's important that you like how it feels when you're operating the handle—especially cabinets, when you'll have several pulls or handles; or your front door, which is such an important part of the home," Lisa warns.
- Find a good metal refinisher. "When it comes to finding vintage hardware, sometimes you can find the right style but the wrong finish. Or you might find the brass piece you've been searching for only to find that it's been painted over," Lisa says. "I use New York Hardware for refinishing and cleaning antique hardware." For more information, call (800) 328-8888.
- "One of my favorite online places to shop for antique hardware and accessories is Olde Good Things," Lisa says. "There are so many rare and unique items, and they are rarely overpriced." Visit [www.ogtstore.com](http://www.ogtstore.com).
- Sometimes new reproductions can be more cost-effective. "It can be expensive to replace every door in a large Victorian with original hardware, especially if there's refinishing involved," Lisa says. "Use this guide to find companies that produce high-quality, authentic reproductions that won't drain your savings account."

For more information on Lisa McDennon, visit [www.lrmdesign.com](http://www.lrmdesign.com).

A Metropolitan Suite v

LB Brass has been dedicated to seeking outstanding collections of European decorative door hardware for their customers. We personally loved this Metropolitan "97" series collection, with its swirling leaf pattern on the door-knobs, elegantly draped pulls and delicate filigree. There were so many beautiful patterns to choose from, it was difficult to pick just one! All LB Brass products are coordinated, with a selection of cabinet knobs, bail pulls, ring pulls, adjustable pulls, doorstops and door/appliance pulls. They are also available in five finishes: Polished Brass, Antique Brass, Polished Nickel, Old Bronze and Old Silver finishes. Call (718) 786-8090 for more information, or visit [www.lbbrass.com](http://www.lbbrass.com) to see a full range of products.

