

CLAUDIA STRASSER began her career in 1993 when she opened a boutique in New York City's East Village and filled it with French boudoir furniture and accessories. She painted and repaired flea market finds, reincarnating them into the sparkling treasures. Now she travels to Paris throughout the year, taking small groups shopping and sharing resources. She works on books and articles while designing a furniture line and doing some decorating projects. Claudia's style and business have been featured in scores of magazines. She is the author of *The Paris Apartment: Romantic Décor on a Flea Market Budget* (1997). The website and boutique can be found at www.theparisapartment.com. Claudia splits her time between New York, Paris and Miami.

Jacket designed by Sheryl Dickert
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Home Reference/Travel

Hardcover ISBN 978-1-4236-3279-5
8 1/2 x 8 1/2 inches 5 2 4 9 9
160 Pages
125 Color Photographs 9 781423 632795

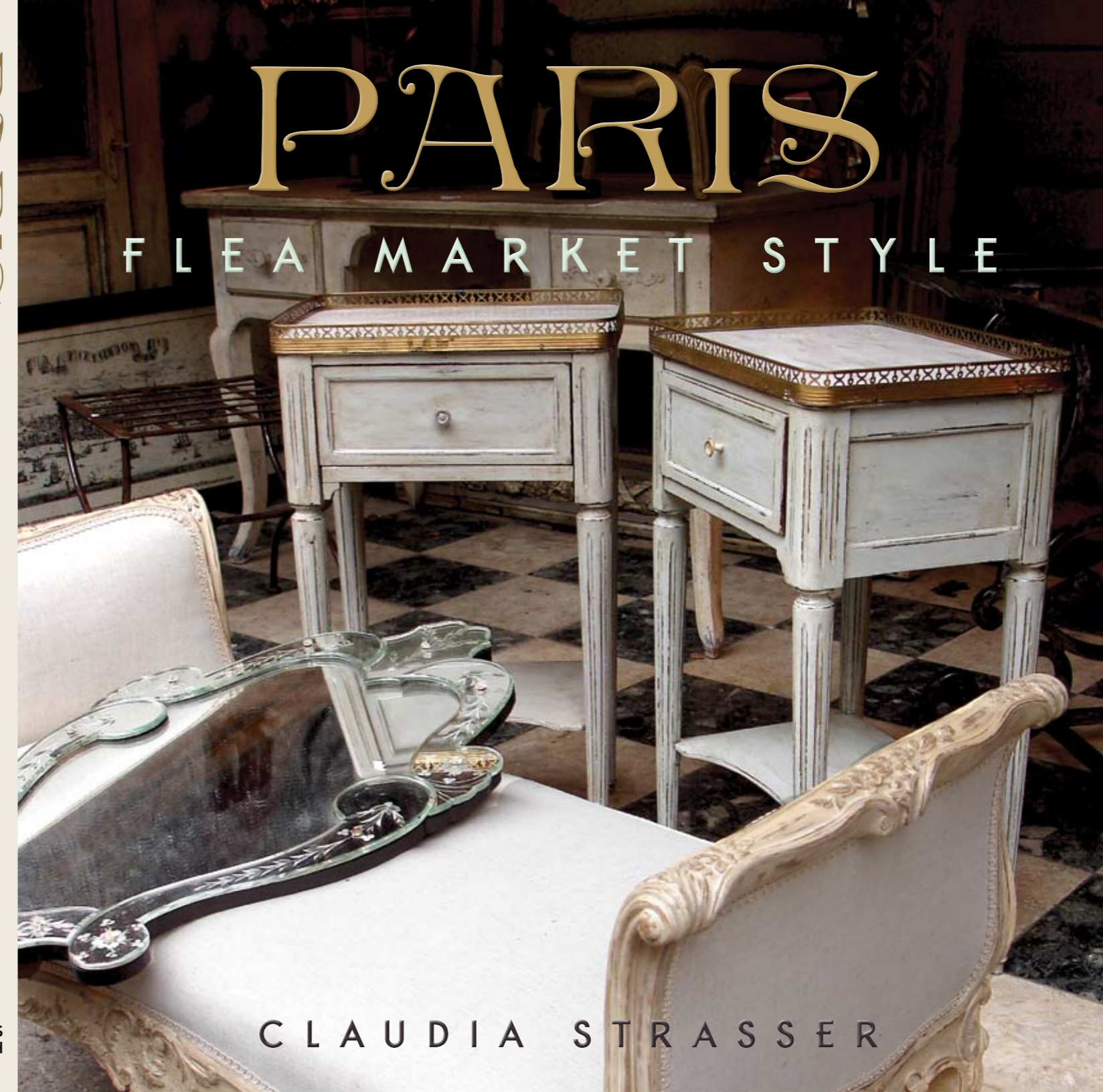


GIBBS
SMITH

PARIS

FLEA MARKET STYLE

STRASSER



PARIS

FLEA MARKET STYLE

CLAUDIA STRASSER

\$24.99 U.S.



If you love French design and bargain hunting, Paris is the place where your shopping fantasies come true. Claudia Strasser leads a tour through the flea markets, finding treasures that can become one-of-a-kind heirlooms and accessories to reflect your individual style. A stylized map shows the lay of the land, and Claudia gives a professional shopper's tips on where to find what, back of the market trade secrets, and the ins and outs of shipping items home. Shop and dream your way through the Paris fleas with this visual stroll through the city's best markets.

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CONTENTS



Introduction † 7

Five Flea Markets † 13

Furniture † 19

Architectural Elements & Hardware † 43

Lighting & Accessories † 61

Collectibles † 79

Paper Goods † 107

Linens, Lace & Textiles † 121

Outdoors & Gardens † 135

Acknowledgments † 158



FURNITURE

Shopping the Paris markets is the most delicious experience and will surely make you want to redecorate completely, but it's not necessary to create a complete transformation or ship home a container full of furniture to make your Paris fantasy happen. Picking up even one small piece can be thrilling!



What appears to be damaged can often add character. Sometimes a defect may even work in your favor, as it could lower the price tremendously. Don't be afraid to choose a piece that can be easily repaired with a little glue and a clamp.

FACING: "Duchesse Brisée" was the original chaise longue. Designed in the 1700s, it was composed of two chairs and a fitted ottoman that could be enjoyed by a couple or separated for guests. These triple sets are becoming more rare, and finding one with its original fabric and patina like the one seen here is perfect for a chic boudoir.



It's easy to get lost looking at Art Deco fashion magazines, handwritten love letters, Baroque and Rococo engravings, antique vanity sets, old photos, leather books, town and country maps and tiny details like ribbons and buttons. Sometimes the smaller piece can tell a lot about slices of life we can only imagine.

As I stroll the market, camera in one hand and coffee in the other, I realize that there is no place I'd rather be, than with the people who take such pleasure in collecting and preserving what they bring to the streets each week.

The smell of the coffee truck at the corner tells me I'm close to the end and that the market will close soon. I sense a bit of urgency, it's time to make decisions. If I want the boudoir lamps, now's the time, or they will surely be gone in my next pass.

Tip: Picking up even one small piece can be thrilling!

Warning: Some markets are temporary, set up on the streets for a day. Don't miss the opportunity to practice your French while bargaining for a little trinket, a piece of vintage clothing or some hardware for your craftsman.

◆ PARIS FICA HABRET STYLE



The markets run the gamut, so it's best to grab something when you see it, for vendors even sell amongst themselves, and high-end dealers shop the back of the market at the crack of dawn. But there's plenty to go around. The markets at Clignancourt may just be the world's best resources for furniture and décor.

