

STYLISH LIVING IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

CAROLINA

HOME

+ GARDEN

A LIGHT TOUCH

A Fresh Look for a Mountain Retreat

SPRING TALK

CONVERGENCE POINT

ASHEVILLE'S SALT AND PEPPER

CAN-DO ATTITUDE

A UNIQUE COLLECTION

JOY AND AMBRANCE

WITH LINDA CONSERBLE

A Work In Progress

*In her recent book, *The Collected Tabletop*, interior designer Kathryn Greeley presents inspiring ideas for entertaining, illustrated with striking photos of her personal collections of tableware and accents. She believes the best collections are acquired thoughtfully, over time. "My design philosophy is 'collected,' not 'decorated,'" Kathryn told Carolina Home + Garden in an interview last year. We asked Kathryn to share a few pointers for starting or growing a meaningful personal collection.*

Photo by J. Weiland



"This breakfast set was the starting point for my collection of "Old Coalport" by Coalport China. I instantly fell in love with its bright color palette with unique floral sprays," says Kathryn Greeley. "I knew it would be a set that I would enjoy when entertaining in my garden. I worked with B.B. Barns to create this teapot topiary."

Whether it's a china pattern that is beginning with your marriage or a group of leather-bound books you just seem to be drawn to, starting a collection is a very personal and exciting experience.

However, for a first-time collector, the start may also seem a bit overwhelming. Not to worry, a collection need not be built overnight. After all, part of the thrill is in the hunt and in finding so-called pieces of the puzzle to build your collection. For this particular collection, known as "Old Coalport," a breakfast set was the starting point.

Since finding that first small set on a trip to Naples, Florida, I have added pieces by hunting in local antique shops, such as Village Antiques and Stuff Antiques, both in Asheville, and using online resources, such as Replacements, LTD. Gradually curating a collection also makes the process more affordable.

If you are looking to start a collection of your own, start by identifying what type of collection you might use most often and what colors, patterns and/or textures you gravitate toward. From there, find a few patterns or lines that you like and research these. Know the value and going rates for these pieces, and then be prepared to purchase them when they present themselves to you.

Hunting for new pieces, caring for them and using or displaying them is truly a hobby that is ever-evolving. Enjoy the thrill of it all!

— Kathryn Greeley

*Kathryn Greeley is a designer with more than 30 years of experience in North Carolina and the author of the recently released book, *The Collected Tabletop*. Visit her online at KathrynGreeleyDesigns.com for more advice and inspiration to grow your own collections.*