

Fine Art & Antiques

Furniture for the ages and Irish silver for sale at Adam's

For racing lovers, the 1969 Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe trophy, won by the Irish-bred and -trained horse Levmos, will delight



A William IV mahogany and button-back navy leather-upholstered chair (€400-€600) at Adam's

[Sylvia Thompson](#)

Sat Feb 14 2026 - 05:00 • 4 MIN READ

Auction houses often highlight the sustainability dimension to purchasing second hand goods at auction.

“By buying antique or second-hand furniture and furnishing at auction, you are helping combat fast furniture waste problems while acquiring well made, quality pieces built to last,” according to the catalogue of Adam's At Home current online auction.

In a 2025 academic paper, How “Fast” is Fast Furniture?, Nottingham Trent University researchers Katyn Furmston and Naomi Braithwaite teased out the phenomenon.

“The global furniture industry is valued at over \$579 billion yet more than 12 million tonnes of furniture is discarded in landfills each year,” they write. They also suggest that the significant waste generated by furniture is often overlooked compared with other goods.

In Ireland, the Environmental Protection Agency has calculated that furniture makes up 21 per cent of waste in household skips and 35 per cent in commercial skips. But the vast majority of furniture in skips is broken.

Fast furniture is driven by rapid production, quick turnover and disposability, but Furnston and Braithwaite argue that it is perhaps a more consumer-driven than industry-defined phenomenon.

And while their research found that people usually only discarded furniture when it was broken, there were nevertheless trends in interior design that drove consumer choices to redecorate spaces – particularly livingrooms – more often than in the past.

Back to the Adam's auction. Interior designers and homeowners seeking diningroom and sittingroom chairs and tables will have a wide selection to choose from at the auction, which closes on Tuesday, February 24th, from 11am. Selected items include eight oak and elmwood Windsor-type low chairs (€600-€1,000); a William IV mahogany and button-back navy leather upholstered chair (€400-€600); and two brown leather club chairs (€2,500-€3,000), all of which appear to be in good condition. A Victorian oak twin pedestal writing desk (€300-€500) could add a touch of tradition to a home office.



Two Chinese elmwood chests of drawers with brass handles (€700-€1,000) at Adam's



A Victorian oak twin pedestal writing desk (€300-€500) at Adam's



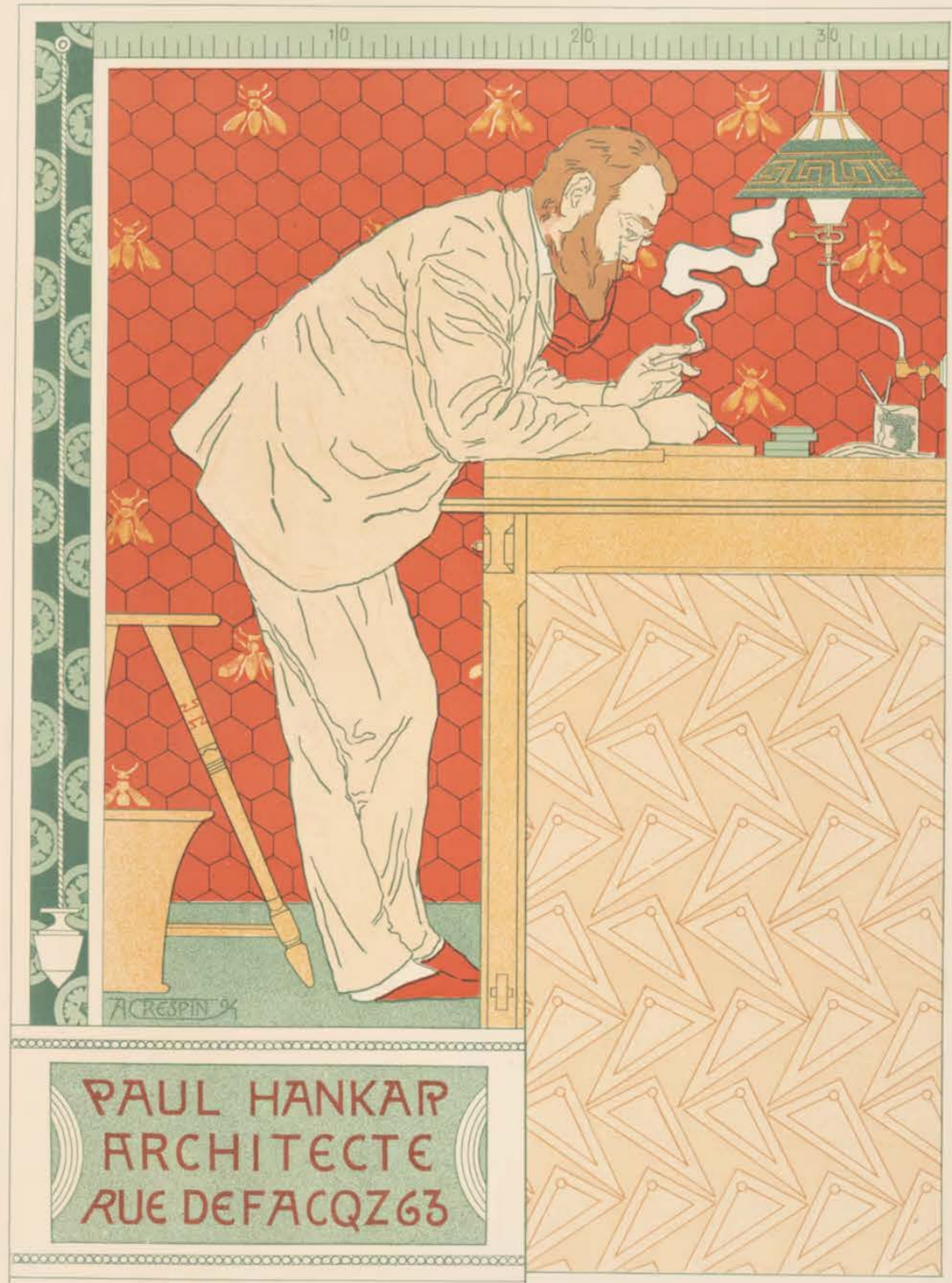
Two Chinese elmwood chests of drawers with brass handles (€700-€1,000) at Adam's

Three framed needlework samplers – including one completed by 10-year-old Sarah Clay, with vignettes of trees plants and text of the poem *The Rose* (€500-€700) are among the more unusual items. Needlework samplers were functional records of embroidery stitches, patterns and motifs stitched on to fabric. Often used as an educational tool, they were most prominent in the 18th and 19th centuries. Examples of samplers are held in collections at the National Museum of Ireland-Country Life in Turlough Park, Castlebar, Co Mayo, and at the National Museum of Ireland – Decorative Arts and History, at Collins Barracks in Dublin.



A framed needlework sampler completed by 10-year-old Sarah Clay with vignettes of trees plants and text of the poem *The Rose* (€500-€700) at Adam's

The At Home auction also has an interesting range of 19th- and early-20th-century French and American posters. These highly collectible prints are suitable for homes, cafes, restaurants and offices. The lithographic print of art nouveau Belgian architect Paul Hankar by his friend Paul Crespin is one well-known piece (€400-€600).



Les Maîtres de l’Affiche PL.91.
Imprimerie Chaxa
Erasme Lardoux & Co.

Lithographic print of art nouveau Belgian architect Paul Hankar by his friend Paul Crespin (€400-€600) at Adam's