

Quality Furniture for Less



Welcome to our blog series which highlights some of the great finds available at Michaan's Auctions monthly Annex Auctions. In this series, we will highlight a few examples of furniture and other home goods recently sold at Michaan's Annex Auction and compare them with their supposed equivalent from a big retail option such as IKEA, Wayfair, and others.

Luckily quality options from years past are still available at Michaan's Annex Auctions. Every month, we sell hundreds of gently used furniture pieces, each featuring a unique and beautifully crafted design that will last decades longer than the modern alternative. Better yet, gently used furniture from Michaan's Auctions regularly sells at much lower prices than in-store options.

Annex Highlights

We will begin by highlighting Lot 1703 from Michaan's Auctions May Annex Sale, **A Modernist Kidney Shaped Sofa with Taupe Upholstery and Downfill** that sold for only \$13. This couch features an

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elegant and offbeat design, countered with a color scheme that fits well across a range of interior design concepts, making it a sophisticated choice at an unbeatable price. The gently curving shape of the kidney bean softens the couch's presence in a room, which can help counter the sharp edges and minimalist design of many contemporary furniture pieces. It features a singular cushion that extends throughout the curve, making cleaning easy and a high back that provides plenty of support. The material is in good condition with no tears and the frame is built to last, with strong joinery hiding just beneath the upholstery.

When compared to contemporary options from a big retailer like IKEA, it's easy to see why hundreds of customers choose Michaan's Auctions. The LINANAS from IKEA, priced at \$200, is one of the company's cheaper options

and yet remains over fifteen times the cost of the couch from Michaan's Auctions. Despite this vast price difference, the LINANAS shows the limits of entry-level, mass-produced furniture in its basic design, which features a rough polyester cover atop a bare-bones, squared-off design. While the sofa is certainly functional, it can't be said to have any amount of design prowess or character that even begins to approach the Kidney Sofa. Of course, a serviceable option is acceptable over a well-designed piece if the price is right, but with a fine design and rock-bottom price, it's not hard to see why Michaan's Auctions continues to see repeat customers.

Lot 1950, **An Art Deco Style Sofa with Brown Velveteen Upholstery**, was another sofa offered in the May Annex Sale and could have sold for a mere \$32. This piece features

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a few contrasting elements that combine into a quietly unique design that will fit into a room but reveal itself to be of exceptional quality upon closer inspection. Unlike the above couch, this sofa features a more traditional form, with a square seat that feels standard, until you observe the fine details, such as the armrests which extend at a slight outward angle, and the gently arching panel at the foot of the piece. These nuanced choices reveal the designer's

intentionality, further highlighted by the unique wavy top of the backrest, which lends an air of whimsy to the otherwise stoic design. The upholstery is a handsome brown, perfect for a cozy living room, and is in excellent condition with no tears or stains. The material is soft to the touch and the backrest's minimalist tufting adds another well-chosen detail.

A genuinely well-designed Art-Deco couch generally carries a hefty

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price tag, and such is the case with the Litfad 3-Seater Art Deco Standard Sofa, which comes in at almost \$1,900. This piece certainly matches the fine design of Michaan's Auctions sofa, but it's hard to see how any differences could add over \$1,800 to the final price. Most of the design elements are very similar, with some small differences in the height of the backrest and available colors. However, these differences largely form a matter of opinion rather than of quality, and Michaan's Auctions offers dozens of such sofas for sale every month, almost guaranteeing that you'll find an option that fits perfectly in your home.

Next Sale

As you can see, Michaan's Auctions Annex Sales can offer a higher quality item for a lower price than major

retailers. Registration and bidding are intuitive processes and can be done 100% online! You don't even need to watch the auction, simply submit an absentee or online bid, and check back at the end of the sale to see if you've won the item.

The June Annex Auction is being held Monday, June 10th; Tuesday, June 11th; and Wednesday, June 12th. This venue gives collectors a wide variety of jewelry, fine art, decorative arts, furniture, Asian art, stamps, and coins to choose from. The auction includes over 2,500 lots, most estimated under \$300.

Michaan's Auctions catalogs can be viewed on our website:

www.michaans.com and on our Michaan's Live site. Bid live in our gallery or remotely via absentee, or online.

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