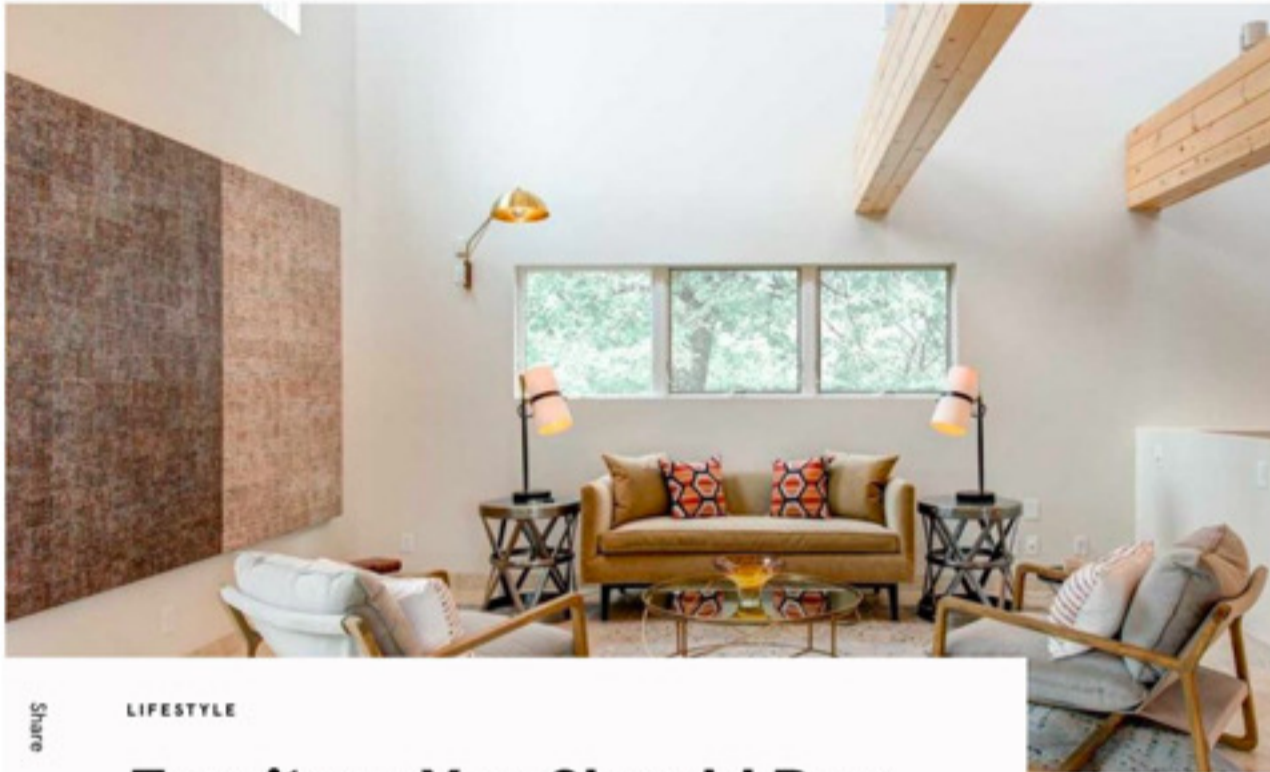




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LIFESTYLE

Furniture You Should Buy Based On Three Life Stages

By: Alexandra Aster Photography: Jess Cooney Interiors

Oh, furniture. The little pieces of personal expression that fill up your space—ideally, a mixture of investment pieces (hello, always-expensive couches), and vintage finds. When you're in college, or in your early twenties, nice furniture might not be in your budget, or even a priority. Décor shopping might even mean a quick trip to IKEA, or buying stuff off of your recently graduated friends. However, as you move through different stages of life, the quality of what you put into your home might become more important. To help you figure out when is the best time to invest in certain pieces of furniture, we turned to three design experts. Find all of their helpful advice below.

Investment Pieces to Purchase Post-College

Courtney Thomas of Courtney Thomas Design recognizes that not many people have enough money post-college for furniture investments—let alone the long-term plan to commit to moving them. However, if you want to buy one nice piece, she recommends going with a headboard: “It’s an easy piece to add that gives an adult feel post-college.” In terms of price, Courtney says, “A decent headboard post-college would put you around \$200-\$400.” And the brand she would recommend for this headboard? “**Birch Lane & Alcott Hill.**”

Another piece she recommends is an oversized chest of drawers, saying, “You will always be glad for the extra storage and it can double as a side table.” This item will set you back around \$250-500, and Courtney recommends looking to Pottery Barn or the RH Outlet.