

by design (n.) A place we check in with tastemakers about town, from decorators to clothes designers and others in between.

TALK TO THE hand

In search of something unique and antique? Just follow the finger—the one pointing to a Roy Dudley estate sale. Roy's trademark signs set the hearts of estate sale goers everywhere aflutter. That's because Roy, who has over 18 years experience as an antique dealer and appraiser, also has an excellent eye and conducts sales like no other. I am such a fan that I once rode my child's kick scooter almost two miles just to get to a Roy Dudley sale. (What? My car was in the shop). Sure getting back with all those bags proved perilous—but that's dedication for you.

We recently met with Roy to discuss the inherently green nature of his business. "The most significant way that we recycle is, of course, that our merchandise is all used; the resources have been expended to create it. . . . Why not use what we already have? But the one thing that people don't realize about the estate sale business in general is that there are a lot of green things going on behind the scenes. A lot of recycling is involved when we liquidate an estate. In the process of sorting and trashing, we recycle glass and plastic, and we donate clothing to local charities, blankets to the Humane Society, and food to food banks. In addition, the sacks and wrapping

paper we use during sales are recycled and second hand."

You could say that Roy was born to the business. His mother conducted sales in the Fayetteville area, while his Aunt Hazel offered financial wisdom. "She made an economics lesson fun. She's 80 something years old and still has yard sales."

Funny business

Asked about one of the odder situations he's found himself in—and, yes, he has his share of hoarder stories—Roy relates an anecdote about organizing the estate of a client who left behind some unfinished business. The client called him from out of town mid-week and asked if he'd check in the icebox yet—he hadn't. Apparently her beloved cat had gotten into a scrap just before she had to leave town, and, unable to bury the ill-fated feline in time, she made the expeditious decision to freeze her until a later date.

Being the prankster that he is, Roy didn't tell his employees. Instead,

Roy Dudley with one of the many super-cool items at his Tanglewood location.

ROY DUDLEY
ESTATE SALE



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says Roy, "I would just casually ask someone to get my Coke out of the freezer for me, and there Tuffy would be!" Now that's just cold.

Also in the bizarre category, "We had a lady who had an estate in storage, and when we got in there we found two Indian mummies. I refused to sell them because I just didn't feel comfortable selling human bodies." A man with scruples. I like that.

The Roy Dudley Estate Sale Center
Tanglewood Shopping Center
7509 Cantrell Road
501-666-5856
roydudleyestatesales.com

Roy's Top Seven

- 1 → Sense of humor
- 2 → The "thrill of the hunt" for antiques
- 3 → Buffalo Grill
- 4 → Naps
- 5 → My identity as a southerner
- 6 → The staff of RDES
- 7 → Respect and appreciation for my mother