

## renovator's notebook



Ross (left) and Long with some of their architectural finds. The duo do the majority of the extracting themselves to help keep down retail costs.



"Lion's Head"  
brass door  
knocker \$55

### advice from tabitha long and elizabeth ross architectural salvage dealers

This two-woman wrecking crew forages for treasures to fill Island Girl Salvage, their Elk Grove Village, IL, store. Here, they dish on buying rescued goods.

#### tips for shopping salvage

**Always carry your measurements with you:** Why make that special trip to a salvage store and find something you love, only to discover it won't fit your space?

**Bring samples for reference:** If you are looking for a wood piece to go in a room with existing stained wood, take a sample of the shade of the stain.

**Beware reproductions:** Examine items carefully for the signs of wear that indicate a true antique. With lamps and light fixtures, a patent date is stamped on most pieces produced before 1920.

**Take along your contractor:** The more involved your contractor is in your project, the better the chances of all the pieces fitting together. At the very least, get advice before any major purchase.

**Use the Internet:** There are loads of terrific sources online—just run a search for "architectural salvage" and see what you find. It's especially helpful when you're comparing prices. Or submit a wish list to the "Search & Rescue" section of our website, [islandgirlsalvage.com](http://islandgirlsalvage.com); we'll keep an eye out for your desired items.



Chrome and  
porcelain faucet \$8.95

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### wish we'd thought of that! a flexible four- door fridge

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#### LIFE CHANGER the 1<sup>st</sup> rotating outlet



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