



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: PHOTOS FROM GETTY IMAGES BY: SEPA, TIMES, TRISTAN FEWINGS, TIMOTHY A. CLARY, HAROLD CUNNINGHAM, FABRICE COFFRINI, DANIEL LEAL, IAN WESTPA IMAGES

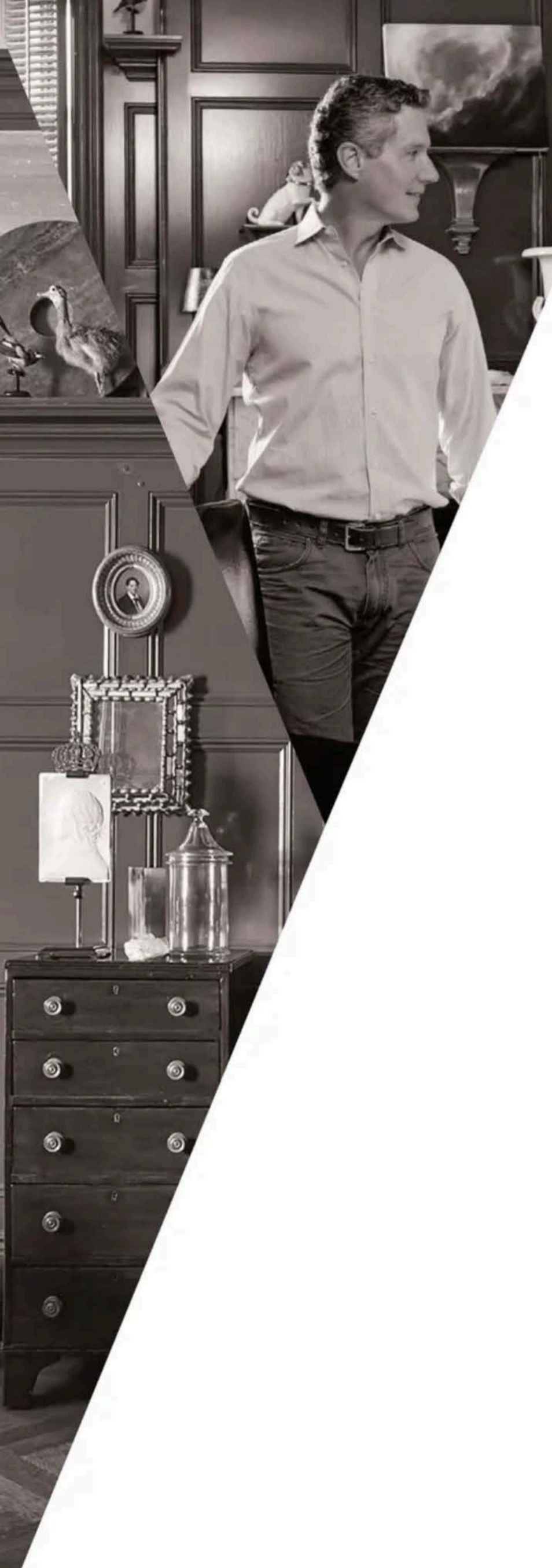
# Object

BY PHEBE WAHL

# LESSON

FROM DECORATIVE OBJECTS AND ARTIFACTS  
TO ANTIQUE CARS, THESE CHIC COLLECTORS  
ARE POWERED BY PASSION.





### THE WHO

Throughout his career, Brian Sawyer ([sawyerberson.com](http://sawyerberson.com)) has pursued architectural design, landscape architecture and interior design as complementary endeavors. After earning his Master of Landscape Architecture from the University of Virginia, Sawyer sharpened his skills working with the Central Park Conservancy, where he worked on restoration projects, steeping himself in Frederick Law Olmsted and later at Robert A.M. Stern Architects, where Sawyer spent seven years, rising to the head of the landscape architecture department before going out on his own in to start Sawyer|Berson in 1999, with another Stern veteran, John Berson.

### THE COLLECTION

"Mostly books and natural objects, minerals, shells, anything for my *Kunstkammer*," Sawyer says of his collection, including gilt frames and religious objects, primarily South American, Spanish, & Chinese. "Some of my most prized possessions are Chinese carved Jade objects, Jade Bi and Cong and a ceremonial Jade axe blade," he says. Other notable pieces include Gongshi (also known as scholar's rocks or viewing stones) and an original hand drawing of the Hôtel de Crillon by its architect Jacques-Ange Gabriel from the Evangeline Bruce estate.

“

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO CONSIDER WHEN COLLECTING IS ANYTHING YOU LOVE INSTINCTUALLY. PUSH YOUR BUDGET HARD EVEN THOUGH YOU THINK YOU CAN'T."

—BRIAN SAWYER

PHOTOS BY JOSHUA MCHUGH/COURTESY OF SUBJECT

### THE PASSION

"As a kid, I would collect small things I could gather or buy, which later morphed into purchases on my travels through the world and in flea markets from New York to Budapest," Sawyer says. "For example, I bought my first flint arrowhead at a collector's shop in southern Illinois when I was nine."

