

# Pieces with Staying Power

Where to find furniture that sets the trend, creates memories and stands the test of time.

BY JO UPCRAFT

There are many things in life that we invest in with longevity in mind – husbands and jewellery, to name just a couple. But one non-negotiable aspect of our list when it comes to lasting the long haul is home furniture. In a world that's wobbly right now, many of us are craving pieces that are not only elegantly showstopping, but also high-quality, hardwearing and built to last.

Originals is a local furniture company that has been selling unique home items in Singapore since 2003. Back then, they were one of a small handful of outlets showcasing the likes of beautiful sustainable cabinets, wardrobes and sideboards from northern India.

## Changing and growing

“When we first started out, we were selling a lot of heavy natural teak wood and dark vintage pieces from Rajasthan,” explains general manager JASDEP SINGH, “but we have expanded organically as home trends have shifted and the needs of our customers have changed.”

Thanks to this expansion over 18 years, there are now contemporary designs from India, Indonesia and Africa sitting alongside exclusive upcycled pieces that have been tenderly repurposed from abandoned houses in the Asia region. Then there are the limited-edition home accessories such as table lamps, cushions and tableware, which make for perfect finishing touches and talking points. Products created by local artisans they've partnered with for decades sit beside modern offerings from Vincent Sheppard, Ethnecraft and Natadora. The store also offers bespoke services for its sofa collection, so you can tailor a sofa with a wide range of exquisite fabrics.



## Forever furniture

Aside from how each product looks, lasts and makes people feel, a key for the Originals team is minimising their impact on the planet. “Sustainability is paramount to us,” says Jasdep. “We truly care that our homeware is as environmentally friendly as possible, and this plays a huge part in the manufacturers we choose to work with.” He admits that customers are becoming increasingly conscious of these details too.

Ultimately, they want the furniture you purchase for your home to last a lifetime. “We look for unique, authentic items that emphasise the importance of quality craftsmanship, product origin and materials,” adds Jasdep. “Our timber pieces are constructed from sustainably sourced solid teak or oak; sofas feature removable covers so they can be used on the frame forever; Indian cabinets come in versatile neutral colours so they can suit various rooms and never go out of fashion.”

Certainly, the pandemic has not stopped customers from caring for their homes. Jasdep is seeing a fresh demand for Scandinavian styles of lighter wood which create a sense of space and suit humid Singapore, alongside lots of home accessories and soft furnishings.

## Online and in store

With almost 20 years of business under their belt and so much to offer, it's no surprise that Originals maintains a thriving e-commerce site so you can shop from the comfort of home. It features everything from the Nomad India collection to some show-stopping Bamileke stools, hand-carved in Cameroon. For those who prefer a little touch and feel, there is also a gorgeous 14,000-square-foot showroom in Butik Batok that receives new pieces every week.

So, if you're looking for a sustainable and reliable chair that won't collapse when we can once again invite multiple guests over, or a distinctive item that will connect you to happy memories from the Red Dot for years to come, you know where to look. *e*



Originals is at 1 Bukit Batok Street 22, #05-02/03. 6471 9918 | [originals.com.sg](https://originals.com.sg)