

The EYE



Feathered Nest

Iliad Design Furniture

Perched between opulence and restraint, the clean-lined yet richly veneered Biedermeier furniture of the Austro-Hungarian Empire has a special appeal in our current era of less-conspicuous consumption. But 19th-century Europeans lived much smaller than 21st-century Americans, a frustration for collectors who want, say, a king-size bed or dining table that can expand to seat 12. That's where Iliad Design comes in. Andrea Zemel, a co-owner of Manhattan's Iliad gallery, has been slowly expanding the custom side of her business to fill that need and to use the talents of the furniture restorers in Iliad's Prague atelier. Zemel won't produce carbon copies, but she'll collaborate with clients to create one-off pieces inspired by Biedermeier antiques and made with the same methods of book-matched veneering, carving, and hand-polishing. Orders take three or four months. —AA

FYI
Biedermeier period:
1815-1848

➤ From \$4,500 (\$5,800 for the chair shown here). 212-935-4382, iliadantik.com