



Doris Leslie Blau

Antique Oushaks Through Different Lenses

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**“A great carpet needs
room to breathe.”**

— Nader Bolour —



Introduction to Antique Oushak Rugs — By Connie Lee

During presentations of Antique Oushak rugs to my Interior Design clients the conversation inevitably centers around color. The use of color in Oushaks is a starting point and a point of reference in the design process. In Traditional and transitional rooms Oushaks are frequently requested for their use of soft colors, particularly salmon or coral. In modern and contemporary rooms they are requested for their use of bold colors. I am seeing this rich warm golden yellow color trending in the design world that can be found in Antique Oushaks. Oushaks also often

have very neutral palettes that have a grey cast not often found in other antique rug styles. These neutral Oushaks work really well with color stories that feature greys, shades of taupe or natural linen.

“The most important words of Interior Design, Balance... Scale... Juxtaposition... Proportion” Interior Designer Gerald Tolemeo.

I read this statement from Gerald and instantly started thinking how accurately this also applies to the patterns that are

characteristic of Oushaks. The patterns are both abstract and geometric rendered proportionate to the border. The larger the size of the motif the wider the border. Very large design motifs or elements can be found in Oushaks giving them a more modern sensibility as well as a sense of whimsy.

Oushaks are frequently double knotted in a very soft wool that gives them a more casual and unpretentious style which is why they are frequently specified for country houses, beach houses, family rooms and also

bedrooms. They have an unusually soft hand and subtle sheen.

The antique carpet room where our presentations are done is a large sun-lit room that serves as a blank canvas. Designers come in with fabric samples, flooring samples, plans and photographs transforming the space into a design lab. In the gallery we jokingly refer to this as the decorating frenzy but in actuality I consider myself to be very fortunate to spend my work days with incredibly talented people who appreciate the skill of the artisan.

An Oushak rug with camel, taupe, grey and off white shown with 19th century French and early 20th century English antique furniture illustrating the versatility of Oushaks with a neutral palette.

19th century Ottoman with ebony base—French circa 1840
Balsamo Antiques

19th century 4 drawer commode
Ebonized mahogany with grey marble top.—French circa 1880
Lee Calicchio, Ltd.

20th century Turner chair with triangular seat.
Carved ebonized oak—English circa 1920
Lee Calicchio, Ltd.

20th century black porcelain lamp—Japanese circa 1980
Lee Calicchio, Ltd.

Contemporary Chinese black jade disks—2 of 3 shown.
Balsamo Antiques.

Item No: BB5066
Size: 24'8" × 16'10"
Circa: 1900
Price: \$150,000





An antique early 20th century Turkish Oushak rug. A sand field with a bold overall design of enlarged blue and saffron palmettes, enlarged serrated leaves, and angular flowering vines within a rust flowerhead and palmette border.

Item No: BB4232

Size: 18'5" × 13'4"

Circa: 1900

Price: \$80,000





An antique Oushak rug with an abrashed mid tone blue field. A design of abstract floral and geometric shapes rendered in crisp shades of coral, orange, ice blue and sage green within a contrasting border.

Item No: BB5083

Size: 12'9" × 9'

Circa: 1900

Price: \$30,000





An early 20th century Turkish Oushak rug, the celadon field having a spacious overall mirrored pattern of unusual medallions and stylized scattered palmettes in pale peach within a dusty peach border with abstract floral motifs and palmettes.

Item No: BB4603

Size: 11'4" × 8'8"

Circa: 1900

Price: \$35,000



A multi colored Oushak rug shown
with 19th century English antiques
perfectly suited for a library.

Early 19th century mahogany
neoclassical library chair
English
Niall Smith Antiques

19th century Wedgewood
majolica stand
English
Niall Smith Antiques.

Item No: BB4455
Size: 12'4" × 10'7"
Circa: 1900
Price: \$40,000



Item No: BB3419
Size: 13'8" × 11'5"
Circa: 1900
Price: \$45,000

An early 20th century Turkish Oushak (Ushak) antique rug.
A sand field with an overall symmetrical design of leafy
scrolling vines around an ornate central medallion within
a pale salmon serrated leaf border.





A late 19th century antique Turkish Oushak rug. A bold tomato red field with blue serrated tracery lines forming a central diamond panel and two part medallions at each end, all containing stylized palmettes and angular vinery within a sage palmette and angular vinery border.

Item No: BB1378

Size: 19'4" × 15'

Circa: 1880

Price: \$65,000



Item No: BB2969

Size: 14.2 × 11

Circa: 1900

Price: \$45,000

An Oushak rug on a soft beige field with an unusual soft beige and peach medallion surrounded by geometric vines framed by a linear pale tan border.



An Oushak rug with a contemporary blue and brown color palette that has a modern scale shown with a proportionately sized mid 20th century daybed.

20th century daybed
carved and painted wood with lion
forms.

Original leather webbing and
bolster cushion.

French circa 1960

Liz O'Brien New York

Item No: BB3549

Size: 23' × 14'

Circa: 1900

Price: \$100,000





An early 20th century Turkish Oushak (Ushak) antique rug. A cream field with a stylized allover pattern of angular leaves and palmettes in beige, saffron, and apricot within a pistachio floral spray border.

Item No: BB2383

Size: 16' × 12'5"

Circa: 1900

Price: \$60,000



Item No: BB3870

Size: 14'10" × 13'3"

Circa: 1900

Price: \$65,000

An early 20th century Turkish Oushak (Ushak) antique rug. A salmon field with an unusual puzzle-like field of jagged-edged rectangles and geometric shapes within an apricot angular flowerhead border.



Item No: BB1471

Size: 17' × 14'3"

Circa: 1920

Price: \$50,000

An early 20th century Turkish Oushak rug with an unusual pastel color palette. A very soft plum field has a large scale and spacious trellis design within a soft peach border.



An early 20th century Oushak rug that transcends time. Speaking to the industrial revolution in its earlier life and in contemporary times speaks to a sculptural industrial aesthetic.

Demiurge New York Editions
Sculptural Wire Chairs.

Item No: BB5034
Size: 11'5" × 9'9"
Circa: 1920
Price: \$50,000



Item No: BB2810

Size: 13'10" × 10'

Circa: 1900

Price: \$35,000

An early 20th century Turkish Oushak (Ushak) antique rug.
A soft tan field with delicate floral motifs within spacious
stepped lozenges trimmed with leafy scrolling vines within
a maize palmette and vinery trellis border.





An early 20th century Turkish Oushak (Ushak) antique rug. A dark taupe field with a controlled all-over garden design with shrubs, weeping willows, cypresses and millefleur within a beige angular palmette border.

Item No: BB1645

Size: 11'1" × 9'5"

Circa: 1900

Price: \$30,000





An antique Turkish Oushak rug with a very pale tone on tone pattern with hints of pastel colors through-out. The motifs are abstract cruciforms and diamonds

Item No: BB5005

Size: 13'3" × 11'9"

Circa: 1900

Price: \$45,000



Two co-ordinating Oushak rugs that interact with each other not only with the use of colors but in the interpretation of all over designs. One is dramatically larger in scale than the other.

The furniture pieces are all from the Bee Line Home Collection by Bunny Williams.

Pagoda Coffee Table in Red Lacquer

Column Drinks Table in Red Lacquer

Lady Slipper Chair with Nail Head Detail.

Item No: BB3331

Size: 14' × 12'

Circa: 1900

Price: \$60,000

Item No: BB3471

Size: 14' × 12'

Circa: 1880

Price: \$50,000



Item No: BB3785

Size: 15'10" × 11'

Circa: 1900

Price: \$45,000

Early 20th century Turkish Oushak rug. A moss green field with a symmetrical design of flowering vines issuing from four central palmettes around an open central lozenge, which is linked by shrubbery to pairs of weeping willows within an ivory palmette and weeping willow border.



Item No: BB4532

Size: 19'10" × 12'5"

Circa: 1900

Price: \$80,000

An early 20th century Turkish Oushak (Ushak) antique rug. A camel field with an overall lattice pattern in various shades of ivory, tan and camel. Enlarged leaves, lozenges, and floral sprays complete the lattice design.





A late 19th century Turkish Oushak rug. A classic Oushak color palette of soft coral, salmon pink and ivory create a symmetrical pattern of angular vines, scattered flower heads and geometric motifs around two central lozenges.

Item No: BB4254

Size: 11'6" × 8'

Circa: 1880

Price: \$28,000



An Oushak rug with depictions of cypress trees on a grey field with a definite purple cast shown with an eclectic use of periods and textures.

A pair of 19th century Wing Chairs upholstered in Grey Flannel.
French
Balsamo Antiques

Contemporary Steel Round Table with Punched Steel Base.
Balsamo Antiques

Hand Turned Porcelain Vases
Venice
Balsamo Antiques

Item No: BB3997
Size: 21'7" × 14'8"
Circa: 1920
Price: \$95,000



Item No: BB3841

Size: 17'9" × 14'3"

Circa: 1900

Price: \$70,000

An early 20th century Turkish Oushak (Ushak) antique rug. A cream field with an unusual centerpiece formed by a ring of polychrome palmettes, with scattered floral motifs overall and unusual stylized spandrels with palmettes within a pale green palmette border.





An early 20th century Turkish Oushak antique rug, the abrashed camel field with an overall "Smyrna" design of enlarged palmettes, lozenges and bands of vinery in shades of brown and cream within a border of reciprocal geometric stripes.

Item No: BB1296

Size: 14'7" × 12'6"

Circa: 1900

Price: \$50,000





An early 20th century Turkish Oushak (Ushak) antique rug, the pale sage field with bold floral motifs and scrolling vines around a cusped central medallion, the salmon spandrels with similar scrolling vines within a sand palmette and leafy vine border.

Item No: BB2811
Size: 13'7" × 10'8"
Circa: 1900
Price: \$35,000



A whimsical antique Oushak with vibrant colors and a tribal cypress tree design shown with elegant 19th century antiques.

Early 19th century Side Chair,
1 of 4 shown
Fruitwood
Italian
Niall Smith Antiques

Mid 19th century Dressing Table
Fruitwood
European
Niall Smith Antiques.

Item No: BB4820
Size: 18'8" × 14'
Circa: 1920
Price: \$85,000



Item No: BB1614
Size: 13'5" × 9'8"
Circa: 1900
Price: \$35,000

An early 20th century Turkish Oushak antique rug. An ivory field with a lattice of linked medallions containing floral sprays within a caramel border with saffron palmettes and flowerheads.



Item No: BB4821
Size: 17'5" × 13'5"
Circa: 1920
Price: \$120,000

Unique among the Turkish Oushak rugs in the collection. This rug is architectural with its beige and madder compartments containing simplified vinery motifs within a broad beige vinery border.





An early 20th century Turkish Oushak (Ushak) antique rug. A cream field with an allover trellis of palmettes and enlarged leaves linked to an overblown central palmette within a sand scrolling vine and palmette border.

Item No: BB2818

Size: 13' × 9'10"

Circa: 1900

Price: \$40,000



The scale of the pattern in this monochromatic Oushak is similar to a Spanish Memluk rug used in the Highland Park Illinois Living Room for the Mandel Residence Designed by Francis Elkins in 1926. Her use of a pattern with this scale was ahead of its time then and is modern today.

Demiurge New York Editions
Mongolian Chairs and
Bauhaus Cocktail Trio Tables.

Raymond Han Oil on Canvas
“Standing” available through
Demiurge New York.

Item No: BB5091
Size: 13'3" × 13'3"
Circa: 1940
Price: \$75,000





A late 19th century Turkish Oushak (Ushak) antique rug. A tomato red field with an enlarged palmette, cloud band and angular vine trellis overall within a pistachio enlarged palmette border.

Item No: BB2809
Size: 13'6" × 9'6"
Circa: 1880
Price: \$35,000



Item No: BB4518
Size: 16'5" × 11'7"
Circa: 1900
Price: \$55,000

An early 20th century Turkish Oushak (Ushak) antique rug.
A pale sand field with a vase design of enlarged palmettes in shades of green and orange and flowering vinery within an enlarged palmette and floral motif border.



The color salmon or soft coral is probably most frequently associated with Oushaks. This pair of Oushaks have a traditional European sensibility and the versatility to be shown here with 19th and 20th century antiques.

Early 19th century Walnut Upholstered Wing Chair.
France circa 1830

Early 19th century Walnut Gueridon Table with
Tripod Pedestal Base.
France circa 1800 – 1820

Mid 20th century Metal and Glass Folding Magazine
Rack. France circa 1940 – 1950

All furniture, accessories and lighting BK Antiques

Item No: BB1220

Size: 14'7" × 11'8"

Circa: 1880

Price: \$45,000

Item No: BB4620

Size: 15' × 9'8"

Circa: 1900

Price: \$35,000



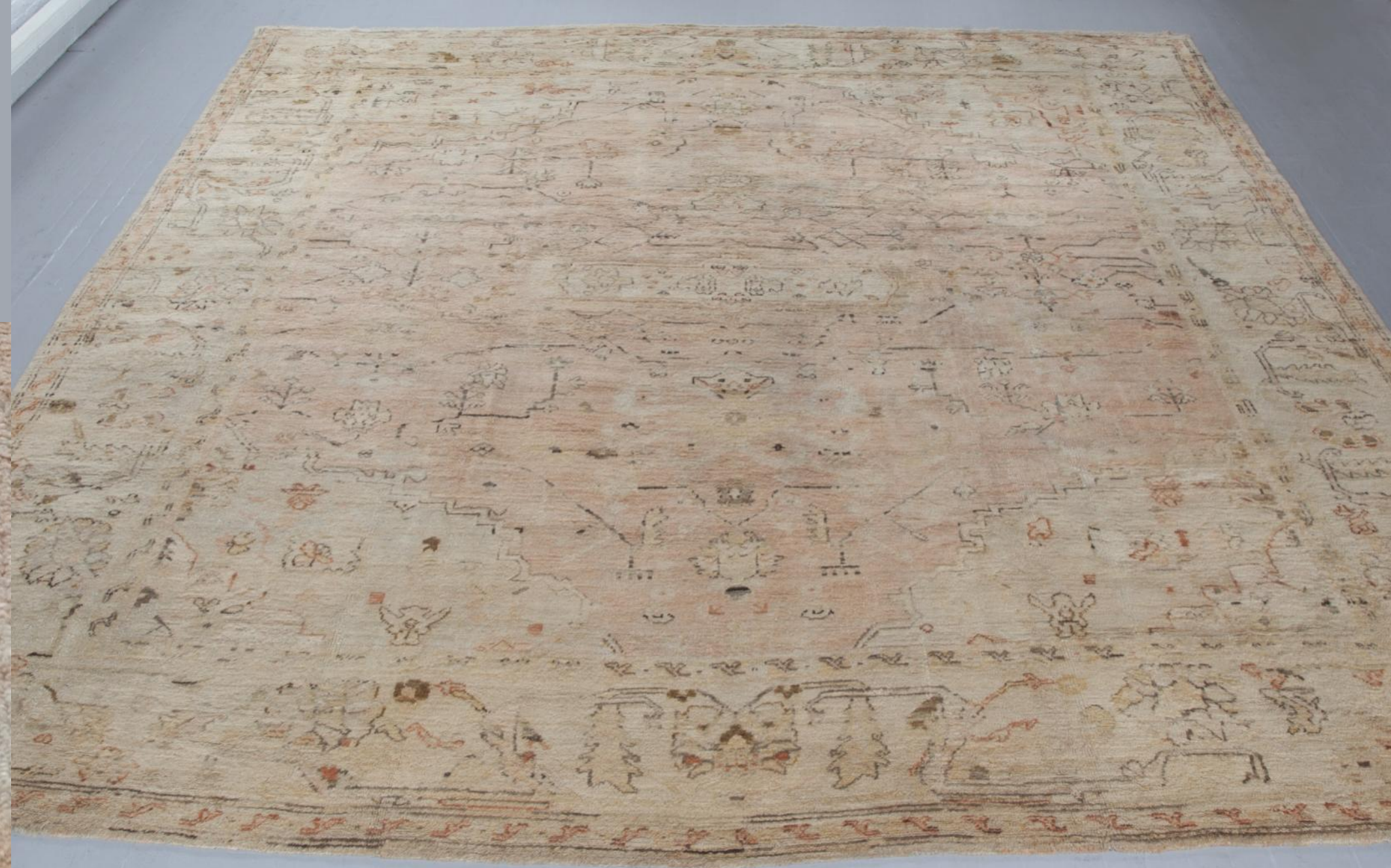
Item No: BB4616

Size: 16'2" × 13'7"

Circa: 1880

Price: \$35,000

A soft rose field with an abstract geometric medallion that can barely be seen within a wide beige border with linear dark brown vines.



Item No: BB3886

Size: 15'6" × 12'4"

Circa: 1880

Price: \$60,000

Late 19th century Turkish Oushak (Ushak) antique rug, with an unusual all-over design of narrow vertical stripes in reds, blue, ivory, and beige, containing floral meander, scrolling vinery, and geometric motifs within a steel blue Anatolian floral motif border.





An early 20th century Turkish Oushak (Ushak) antique rug from West Anatolia, the pale sage field with four apricot-colored enlarged palmettes near each corner, with a an overall pattern of floral sprays around a small central salmon palmette within a salmon palmette and serrated leaf border.

Item No: BB3651

Size: 14'10" × 9'3"

Circa: 1900

Price: \$45,000





A soft salmon field with an overall primitive design of angular floral motifs around rows of pendants containing similar motifs within an angular leaf and palmette border.

Item No: BB0889

Size: 13'7" × 13'5"

Circa: 1900

Price: \$55,000



Item No: BB0671
Size: 17'7" × 15'4"
Circa: 1880
Price: \$120,000

A late 19th century Turkish Oushak (Ushak) antique carpet.
A pale cream field with subtle scattered tile patterns and
three stylized cypresses with surrounding geometric motifs,
within a pale peach abstract vinery border.



All over patterns lend themselves to multiple seating areas as the design does not interfere with furniture placement. Imagine the seemingly accidental furniture placement in victorian parlor rooms and multi functional modern day great rooms.

Early 19th century Mahogany Neo Classical Library Chair.
English
Niall Smith Antiques

Mini Skirts Drink Table
Carved Wood with Light Mahogany Stain
Bee Line Home by Bunny Williams

Jack Side Chairs
Upholstered in Red Linen with Button Tufting
Bee Line Home by Bunny Williams

Item No: BB4503
Size: 15'2" × 11'
Circa: 1900
Price: \$55,000





An early 20th century Turkish Oushak (Ushak) antique rug. A beige field with a lattice of angular stylized vines and angular palmettes within an angular floral motif border.

Item No: BB2385
Size: 14'8" × 11'4"
Circa: 1900
Price: \$50,000



Turkish Oushak Rugs

Oushak is a town in West Central Anatolia south of what is today Istanbul Turkey. Rugs have been produced there since the 15th century primarily for personal use in daily life. In the late 19th century the town of Oushak became a major center for the commercial production of large decorative rugs for the international market. Most likely due to easy access to high quality wool and natural dyes from Oushak and the near by towns of Balikesir and Kutahya. The foundation of antique rugs from Oushak are wool and the pile is knotted with particularly soft wool. They are usually double knotted increasing their durability. The design influence is Persian but the use of scale is tribal or nomadic.

**“The soul of
the room is
in the carpet.”**

— **Doris Blau** —

Dealing in antique oushaks since 1963.

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