

The One Thing I'd Save in a Fire ...

MY GRANDFATHER'S CHAIR

We asked Bryan Yates of Yates Desygn: Aside from people and pictures, what's the one thing you'd save in a fire?

by JESSICA OTTE

"MY GRANDFATHER—WE CALLED HIM GRANDPA LANGFORD—WAS A TALL, KIND YET FIRM MAN WHO HAD A FUNNY SIDE AND LOVED HUGS. We spent a lot of time together when I was growing up; my parents had careers, so he and my grandmother would pick us up from elementary school in Harlingen, Texas, where I was from, and feed us after-school snacks, play with us, and ensure we did our homework. This was the wingback chair and ottoman he would always sit in when my grandparents hosted family gatherings, which were quite frequent. I remember being young and sitting in the chair with him or my grandma as they read us a story.

After my grandpa passed away, I mentioned to my grandma that I would love to have the chair in my house someday. When my grandma passed three years later, my mother saved the chair for me, since I was living in New York at the time and had no adequate space for it. When we moved into our current home, I knew I wanted to incorporate the chair into my primary bedroom. I had it reupholstered in the most amazing Rosemary Hallgarten 'Bichon' fabric with a Samuel & Sons leather welt. The fabric is soft, comfortable, and reminiscent of a teddy bear—the same comfort I felt sitting in the chair with him as a child. It's a daily reminder of him and that our family is always with us."



love seat: Designer Bryan Yates (with pup Lady) sits a spell in his beloved late grandfather's chair.