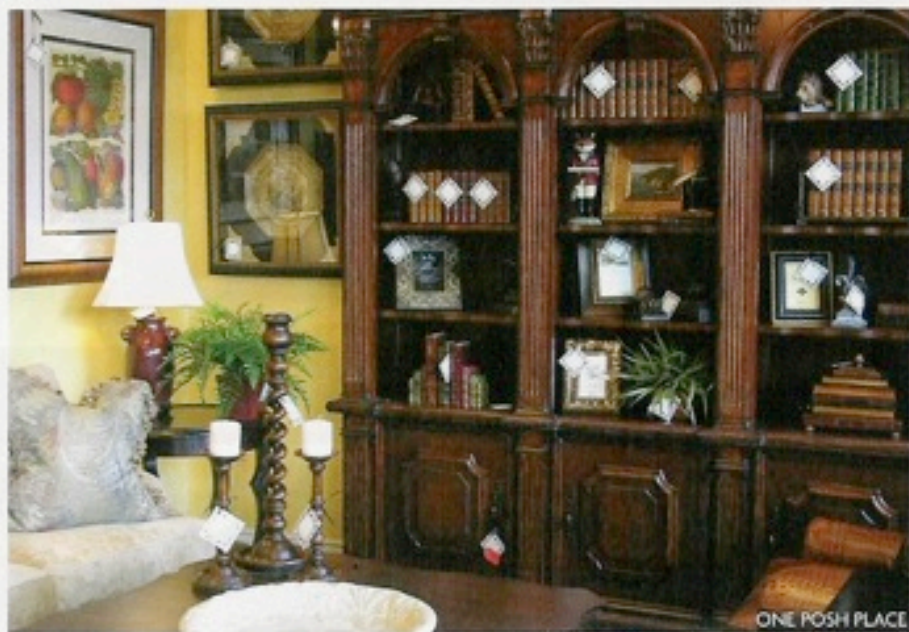


SO UNIQUE! design

UNIQUE LIVING



FROM ECLECTIC TO OLD WORLD, FURNITURE BOUTIQUES OFFER SOMETHING TO MAKE YOUR HOME-SWEET-HOME.

BY SUSAN LANIER-GRAHAM

Furniture boutiques offer an eclectic and personal alternative to large furniture showrooms. The word boutique comes from the French word for shop and excludes large department stores and even high-end chains. That clearly defines Scottsdale's furniture boutiques.

The many boutiques in Scottsdale are small shops that specialize in elite, unique, and often eclectic items. Walking into one often feels like coming home. It's no wonder. According to Denise Barrett of Sunny & Chair in La Mirada in North Scottsdale, "Most boutique furniture stores are the owners' dreams. It's something I've wanted all my life and most owners feel the same way."

In many cases, the shops even look like home. Brenda Agee has created spaces in her Élan Interiors Showroom that look like rooms. This gives customers a chance to see and feel how items can be combined for the custom and personal look they want in their own homes. Agee calls her showroom a "living portfolio" for her items and the best way to display the items for her customers.

Paige Bailey, owner of One Posh Place, offers the same type of presentation. By grouping items, Bailey believes customers can get a feel for the scale of pieces and how to accessorize to get the most dramatic effect.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 104



ONE POSH PLACE



ONE POSH PLACE

BOUTIQUES STRIVE TO FIND PIECES THAT PROVIDE A "SIGH" FEELING WHEN CUSTOMERS SEE THEM.



ÉLAN SHOWROOM

A UNIQUE COLLECTION One of the most common traits among furniture boutiques, though each has its own flavor and theme, is that they offer unique pieces. Most include vintage items, one-of-a-kind creations, select pieces from around the world, and even locally created offerings.

Barrett's Sunny & Chair is just that—bright and sunny with an assortment of chairs and other furniture, along with an amazing array of accessories. She tries to create a design in her front window that matches the season and carries through to the shop itself. Currently she offers a variety of fall and winter items, including unique pumpkins crafted locally from luscious velvet and topped with actual pumpkin stems collected by the designer. Other handcrafted items include gorgeous throws and bedspreads hand painted by an artist in California and one-of-a-kind furniture pieces.

Barrett finds items from all over and is always on the lookout for a unique piece for the store. She attends markets and gets shipments daily.

Fiesta Furnishings, which offers a more Old World Spanish Colonial-style, also receives items daily. This is common for furniture boutiques and a reason why many customers frequent their favorite shops. Fiesta's signature line is a hand painted collection of furniture—from dining tables and chairs to beds and armoires—brought in from Brazil and crafted from old bridges and buildings up to 200 years old. The collection changes frequently.

Élan offers a variety items, including a selection of blown glass from around the world. While much of it arrives from European artisans, the shop also offers unique pieces from artisans throughout the U.S.

Bailey collects items for One Posh Place that help make a space unique, from tapestries to benches. She encourages her customers and clients to find pieces that provide a "sigh" feeling when they enter the room.

One unique boutique in Scottsdale is Alexandra Diez. Although owner Alexandra Diez lives in Miami, she offers a boutique in North Scottsdale. She refers to her shop—which she founded in 1991 just to sell her own one-of-a-kind creations—as a gallery. She specializes in wrought iron items with unique antique, copper or charcoal finishes. Her collection of furniture and accessories is a "combination of fire, imagination, timeless designs, and millenary craftsmanship."

That imagination plays a key role in shopping furniture boutiques. The most important part about designing a room using items from boutiques, according to Camilla Cavan of Camilla Cavan Designs in Scottsdale, is to create a sense of place. She believes that homeowners and visitors need to feel comfortable even in the most luxurious surroundings.

Today's boutiques provide a sense of timeless beauty. Rather than the mass-production of items found in even upscale furniture showrooms across the Valley, furniture boutiques are personal, fun, and include much of the owners' care. It's also likely that your neighbor won't come home with the same chair, rug or objet's d'art.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 106



DESIGN SERVICES Like many interior designers, Cavan often combs boutiques in search of items for her clients. She wants, she says, to find her clients just the right accessories and pieces to heighten all of the senses, from a visual appeal to even the smell and feel of the items.

Whether it's outfitting an entire house or just pulling together a single room, you can usually find a designer who will go the extra mile to shop the various boutiques to find what you like. It's also common to find an in-house designer to help you with your overall design. That way, you can pick out pieces that suit your whims and have a designer help you fit the items into your home.

Barrett of Sunny & Chair has a design degree and more than 30 years experience in the industry. She is eager to help clients and customers design a room.

Some of the boutiques have separate design studios. Paige Bailey & Associates is the design side of One Posh Place and Élan Interiors, Inc. is the design arm of Élan Showroom, located just upstairs from the boutique. Be sure to ask the shop owner if design services are available.

At One Posh Place, the philosophy is that thought and creativity is more important than money. Barrett agrees. "I encourage customers to shop the small boutiques. They are often surprised to find that the prices are the same as or often lower than the large retail chains."

Auer Design Hause in DC Ranch tries to appeal to a broad range of customers, offering a variety of prices for a variety of budgets, from the many antiques to the various original designs.

FINDING AND SHARING DREAMS One of the most popular design trends today is "eclectic." Though sometimes overused in the design world, eclectic is the best way to describe most boutiques. They offer a variety that helps make every home unique. In part due to the range of decorating shows now on television, people are becoming more comfortable with their own sense of style. This makes customers more eager to pick pieces that appeal to them rather than simply buy items to match and fill a space.

From antique rugs to early American furniture, handcrafted accessories to customized artwork and 18th-century antiques, Asian objects'd art and whimsical ceramics, you can find just about anything at the furniture boutiques scattered throughout Scottsdale. More than anything, you will find shop owners ready to share a dream and a story or two about the pieces dotting their dream shops. ✨

WHERE TO SHOP

A few locations to get you started.

ALLAIRE BROTHERS INC.

1201 N. 85th Place, #107
Scottsdale
480.423.8881

ALEXANDRA DIEZ

15125 N. Hayden Road, #118
480.970.5550

AUER DESIGN HAUSE

20977 N. Pima Road, Ste. 140
(at Market Street at DC Ranch)
Scottsdale
480.767.0880

CAMILLA CAVAN DESIGNS

Scottsdale
480.627.7000

CASA DEL ADORNO, INC.

7830 E. Redfield Road, Ste. 4-7
Scottsdale
480.348.0158

DS THE STUDIO LLC

10050 N. Scottsdale Road
Scottsdale
480.348.3776

ÉLAN SHOWROOM

7020 E. 1st Ave., Ste. A
Scottsdale
480.946.7070

FIESTA FURNISHINGS

15320 N. Hayden Road
Scottsdale
480.951.3239

ONE POSH PLACE

Interior Design Services by Paige Bailey & Associates, Inc.
7030 E. Indian School Road
Scottsdale
480.941.8954

PORTOBELLO ROAD HOME FURNISHINGS

15600 N. Scottsdale Road
Scottsdale
480.609.3071

SUNNY & CHAIR

8900 E. Pinnacle Peak, #C3
(at La Mirada)
Scottsdale
480.473.0038

TWO PLATES FULL

6166 N. Scottsdale Road, #402
(at The Borgata)
480.443.3241