

TRAVEL

Suzanne Kasler

My Atlanta

Shopping the city is a professional — and personal — passion for designer Suzanne Kasler. She takes us to her favorite destinations.

It didn't take long upon moving to Atlanta twenty years ago with my family for me to realize how the city genuinely functions as the capital of the Southeast — in terms of culture, sports, and shopping. Because I had always worked

in design, notably in Indianapolis, from which my husband, John Morris, and our daughter, Alexandra, had come those many years ago, I recognized that Atlanta would be the right place for me to focus on high-end residential work. One



of its defining and fascinating features is that Atlanta manages to function as a major city interspersed with some of the most beautiful residential neighborhoods in America.

That dynamic shouldn't be surprising since I think one of the things that distinguishes the South from other regions in the country is that people here truly love and respect their homes. As a result, there is an enormous appreciation for, and understanding of, architects and designers. This pervasive respect for aesthetics makes Atlanta an especially rewarding city in which to work as an interior designer.

Among its best design highlights is ADAC (Atlanta Decorative Arts Center), a remarkable destination and source of inspiration — for all things vintage, new, and custom made. I travel here often from my home in Buckhead for the resources I need for my clients and my own residence.

When I meet friends and clients for a meal, I usually choose Le Bilboquet, a new French restaurant (the original one is in New York) located in The Shops Buckhead on Peachtree, a premier shopping destination in Atlanta. The restaurant is chic and pretty, with an expansive outdoor patio where I prefer to dine. I recommend their signature dish, the Cajun chicken with pommes frites and salad.

The west side neighborhoods of Atlanta are filled with wonderful, distinctive shops, including Dixon Rye, Ann Mashburn, and Bungalow Classic. Bradley Odom, a designer who worked at J.Crew and West Elm, opened Dixon Rye about a year ago, and he was determined that his shop have a different feel from others, achieving it, in part, by displaying his one-of-a-kind objects in novel ways, often thematically. It's always exciting



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Suzanne at Bungalow Classic with owners Courtney and Randy Tilinski



Suzanne and Courtney Tilinski at Bungalow Classic



Dixon Rye

for me to see so many young design entrepreneurs gravitating to Atlanta and finding success here. Virtually every item of women's clothing at Ann Mashburn seems naturally chic — you can't go wrong here with an outfit. I suggest choosing from her stock of shirts — tunic-style oxfords, in white, blue,



Le Bilboquet

pink, and stripes. I pair them with my fashion accessories and I always opt for some of her fun espadrilles.

Bungalow Classic is known for its diverse mix of antiques, furniture made with reclaimed materials, upholstery, lighting, and other intriguing objects. The store is owned by my close friends Courtney and Randy Tilinski, who carry my line of furniture with Hickory Chair and lighting from Visual Comfort. Their aesthetic is exactly mine: beautiful neutrals and tones, classic, timeless. And as I like to do with my own interior design, they always change up the accessories and art to keep things fresh.

What's particularly appealing about Laura Pearce is its diminutive scale and personal feel. Laura's jewelry designs are thoroughly original, she has great personal style, and she also pulls in other designers, such as Penny Preville, Katie Decker, and Aaron Henry. My husband bought a silver cuff bracelet for me there, monogrammed with our daughter's name and



Ann Delgado-Stone and Susie Pryor at Pryor Fine Art



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Suzanne with Debbie Weitz at B.D. Jeffries



Suzanne at Erika Reade



Michal Evans



Ann Mashburn

Photography courtesy of Mashburn



Ann Mashburn with Suzanne at Ann Mashburn



ADAC

Steven Seinfeld, and Elena Zolotnitsky, among them. Their works, themes, colors tie in with my aesthetic and look so well in the homes we design.

I have to point out that Barry Hutner at Parc Monceau not only carries everything, but he is also very generous to the design community, lending items for show houses. Since he knows my aesthetic, he'll send me pictures of things like beautiful Regency lamps and antique gilded and vintage pieces, knowing that they will be distinctive additions to our projects.

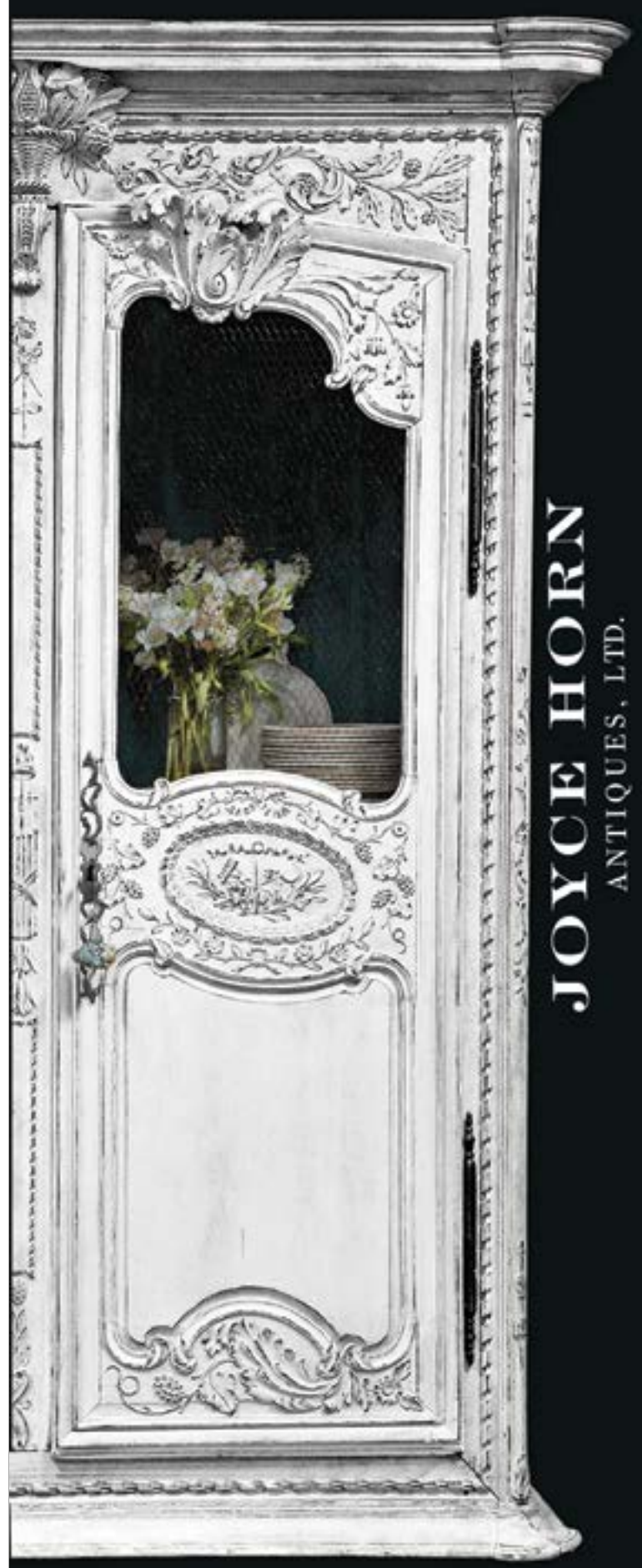
Shopping at these stores is yet another reason why Atlanta is such a memorable American city. My out-of-town clients always tell me how great it is that I have all these resources locally. People talk about going online to shop, but I love to see my friends, catch up on what's happening, and get inspired by seeing what they have. I encourage people to go shopping — in brick-and-mortar shops. You don't always capture the essence of a place unless you're in the environment. I think shopping is about inspiration and relationships that turn into friendships. That's what I love about Atlanta.

birthdate, and it is now one of my treasured possessions.

In all the years I've now been an Atlanta resident, I have continued to admire Michal Evans. He's one of those visionaries who really designs with flowers, making arrangements that linger in the mind long after the blooms have wilted. His creations are consistently distinctive, sophisticated, and elegant.

Erika Reade and B.D. Jeffries (next door to one other) are where I go for every one of my installations — for their pillows, lamps, accessories, bowls, baskets, and bath accessories. Erika Reade has an amazing selection of Simon Pearce glassware that works in any interior setting and I love the way she displays books and accessories together. B.D. Jeffries has unique "ethnic" furniture and antiques, the prevailing textures decidedly masculine.

I can always count on seeing new works at Pryor Fine Art by some of my favorite working artists — Dusty Griffith,



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