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OUR GUIDE TO
THE 83 BEST
SHOPS IN AMERICA



House Beautiful

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Shop America: Houston

The posh River Oaks neighborhood used to be bordered by tire shops and car lots, but new developments are reconnecting the enclave with its southernmost section. West Alabama Street has long been an antiques dealers' hub, and new boutique owners are flocking to the area, invigorating the shopping scene.

By Melinda Page



Illustration by Nik Neves

Area

Armoires, armchairs, and consoles here tend to be European antiques, but the accessories are as of-the-moment as the store's new concrete facade. Sexy Alexandra Von Furstenberg Lucite bowls and Waylande Gregory ceramics are arranged with paintings by Texas artists. Also known for gift wrapping. 3735 Westheimer Rd., 713-668-1668, area-houston.com.

Brown

An inventory inspired by the owner's eclectic collections — old-fashioned school items, pewter, vintage pressed flowers. Regularly stocked goods include Fermob Bistro chairs and Windsor chairs by D. R. Dimes. 2940 Ferndale St., 713-522-2151, shopbybrown.com.

Caught My FANCY

The owner refreshes antique and vintage pieces with pretty lines by repainting them in a palette of soothing grays and blues. Smaller objects for sale in the shop include petite giltwood mirrors, striped linen grain-sack pillows, and La Lavande soaps. 2015-B W. Gray St., 713-533-0968, caughtmyfancy.com.

Found For The Home

The neighborhood's quirky, cool kid. Items such as antique finials and vintage industrial pieces are juxtaposed against Tina Frey resin tables and handblown glass from Siemon & Salazar. 3433 W. Alabama St., 713-522-9191, foundforthehome.com.

Indulge! Décor

Set on a tranquil side street and filled with rigorously sourced items, including Blanc d'Ivoire furniture (the only retailer in the U.S.), Juliska tableware, and Tsé & Tsé vases. 2903 Saint St., 713-888-0181, indulgedecor.com.

Kuhl-Linscomb

More than a store, it's a campus of buildings stocked with the chic, the irreverent, and the hard-to-find. Wander for hours through the vast selection, which includes John Robshaw textiles, Hermès tabletop items, and handmade Hästens beds — and that's just to start. 2424 W. Alabama St., 713-526-6000, kuhl-linscomb.com.

Plush Home

The destination for the best in luxe bedding, from brands like Ann Gish and Legacy Home to local favorite Peacock Alley and newcomer Tribute Goods. The selection is heavy on neutrals. 2233 Westheimer Rd., 713-522-5230, plushhomedecor.com.

Skelton-St. John

In addition to the beautifully displayed, easy-to-use antique furnishings from Italy, France, and Sweden, for which this shop is known, expect to find charmingly offbeat pieces such as grotto-style demilune tables dripping with seashells. Another highlight: the impressive array of white ironstone bowls and platters. 2143 Westheimer Rd., 713-524-1990, skeltonstjohnantiques.com.

Thompson + Hanson

A special home-and-garden store with a Texan sense of place. Browse the terra-cotta pots, Sabre flatware, and Dash & Albert pillows — and stop by the lovely courtyard café, Tiny Boxwood's. 3600 W. Alabama St., 713-622-6973, thompsonhanson.com.

And Don't Miss

Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams 4091 Westheimer Rd., 832-397-5130, mqbwhome.com.

Restoration Hardware 4030 Westheimer Rd., 713-328-3100, rh.com.

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