

WASHINGTON

W'S TAILOR:
WELL-SUITED
TO THE TASK

KNIGHTS OF OLD
JOUST FOR FUN

YO-YO MA & PALS
AT THE KEN CEN

where

BECAUSE YOU'VE ARRIVED



SHOP
with the
PROS

TWO DAYS IN PURSUIT
OF CAPITAL STYLE

Shopping

with the

Pros



Style savants share their latest haunts for cool decor and hot fashion

STORY BY
JENNIFER BARBER

PHOTOS BY
KRISTIN HARRISON

Left to right: A boutique's blazer at Potomac Village; magazines at Blue House Antiques; shops that at Colson City; wine, hot footwear at the Wine Shop; eclectic furnishings at Secret City; beds at the Double Bed.

D.C.'s retail landscape has exploded in recent years with fashionista shoe shops, Asian furniture boutiques, six countant women's clothing stores and funky antiques dens opening their doors from Georgetown to Old Town Alexandria.

Even for this shopaholic editor, it can be daunting to suss out the hippest spots. Which is why, for this shopping issue, I sought help from two experts—The style Sacagaweas? Interior designer Katie Leavy, who showed me her fave decor stores along Wisconsin Avenue, and wardrobe consultant Elizabeth Gibbens, who helped me hunt for trendy clothes and shoes in Arlington and Alexandria, Virginia. Over two summer days, we troled for everything from vintage dresses to Italian pottery. My credit cards may never recover!



Tuesday: The Decor Diva

10 a.m. Pottery Peeper (6645 Wisconsin Ave. NW, 202-342-3288) I meet D.C. interior designer Katie Leavy (catch her on an upcoming episode of HGTV's *Designs Challenge!*) in Georgetown for coffee at this eat-in-in-Paris hangout. "There are so many new places in this neighborhood," says Leavy. "It's like glam and awfully efficient with her huge notebook listing decor pieces for us to visit. We drink up and head out."

10:30 a.m. Istanbul Caravan (1014 Wisconsin Ave. NW, 202-965-9800) Spice-based films, large upholstered sofas and straight-from-the-soak bottoms crowd this "Turkish import shop." "Decor has become more global and transitional," says Leavy, who adds exotic touches to many of her projects. "Even in D.C., people no longer want just an American look."

11 a.m. Antique Print Gallery (1629 Wisconsin Ave. NW, 202-338-4588) Botanical prints, book plates and a 1901 Russian children's story with Art Nouveau illustrations fill this Dickensian store. Leavy digs through the stack, pulling out a 19th-century engraving of gems and a creepy-fal-voal insect print.

11:30 a.m. Spare (1625 Wisconsin Ave. NW, 202-333-0160) Down the ave, the window of this funky spot holds a pair of gilded French chairs covered in checkered pink silk. "They would really punch up a room," says Leavy. Owner Francesca Christ, 50-year-old in heels and jet-black hair, shows us high-style

items like wing chairs upholstered in black patent and an octagonal Lucite coffee table (\$3,200)—in Studio 54.

11:45 a.m. Sixteen Fifty Nine (1659 Wisconsin Ave. NW, 202-333-1480) Mid-century mod rules this skinny, two-level townhouse. Owner Michael Johnson sells furniture, art and accessories. "From post-WW II to the time when Nixon resigned," trial floors and crisp white walls set off well-priced stock: a pair of woad-woad chairs (\$2,095), Cubist paintings and a Chinese-looking horse sculpture (\$1,211). Leavy's got her eye on.

Noon, A Mano (1677 Wisconsin Ave. NW, 202-298-0200) Leavy loves this Med-cos haven stuffed with Provence-bright items and colorful Italian pottery. She peeks at a table set for a beachy feast with a lobster-muff tureen and coral candleholders (\$200). "There's so much shell stuff now. It gives the table a light feeling," she says.

12:15 p.m. Random Harvest (1313 Wisconsin Ave. NW, 202-333-0540) We breeze through this popular furniture emporium, where antiques, French-style tables mix with Chinese chests and silk curtains. "They've got great beds and lots of different things—Empire pieces, pillows," says Leavy, who recently picked up a chandelier here for her cousin.

12:30-1:30 p.m. 2 Amps (3715 Macomb St. NW, 202-889-5700) Departing the chic streets of Georgetown, we drive to



Kate Lacey considers children's *bookshelves at Antiques First Gallery.*

to the posters near the National Cathedral and close to shops Lacey likes. We munch on popcorn and pizza and chat about her upcoming trip to Paris—more shopping!

2 p.m. Blue Horse Antiques (3708 Madison St., 202-297-8047) Finds primitive farm tables or paintings of farms and bulls, country rules like high-ceilinged beehives. "I like the rustic, how they hang spinning wheelers next to rough pieces," says Lacey, pointing out a weathered blue cabinet (\$1,200) and a pair of old riding boots.

2:30 p.m. Washington Commitment (3226 Wisconsin Ave. NW, 202-363-8626) "You don't have to spend a ton of money to get a great find," advises Lacey, as we wander through this popular commitment des, peering over an old Indian dish (\$450) that could

hide a nice wall piece and an antique (\$650) in gilded four burners.

2:40 p.m. Kravis Collection (5215 Wisconsin Ave. NW, 202-537-7333) Another spot on his brings us to Chevy Chase and the Cal-cool furniture store. "I like the overall look here, the straight lines, the classic shapes," says Lacey, glancing around the mammoth, neutral-filled showroom that cracks of Midco, Scandinavian, mid-century Kravis chairs, a limestone-topped table and lamps with silver bases.

3 p.m. Belmont Market (1330 Wisconsin Ave. NW, 202-462-9702) and **State Mart** (1345 Wisconsin Ave. NW, 202-363-7070) "You've got to know where to spend money and know where to save it," says Lacey, so why does she shop for accessories at both haute-temple First and low-priced SMT Variety, baby, and the fact that at Belmont's, we avoided ivory shell place mats (\$25), incense burner wine glasses (\$15) and metal trays with cattle-horn handles (\$1,200). At State Mart, Lacey finds neon-bright place mats, pulka-dot chandelier shades (\$4) and a Renaissance-style gilded frame (\$35). "If you're going to change your look often, this is how to do it," she says. "You've just got to know where to go." Now, thanks to Lacey, I do.

Thursday: The Fashionista

10:30 a.m. The Devil's Den (101 S. First St., 202-474-8202) Muffy Goodwin, consultant and all-around fashion guru (Elizabeth Gilbert meets me at this event), is another jeans aficionado. Of course, she finds the too-crinkled white shirt and navy-ink tee. "Navy is back in style, but people in D.C. are just realizing it," she says, surveying the industrial-look shops where jeans like a glossy, dark wood bar and hang from what seem to be metal hooks.

The blues at this place also appeal, from Larned Sewn's straight-leg, tie-to 1960s pair (\$350) to Historical's hippie-ish, Roman-embroidered button-ups (\$245). Gilberts wears about the entire outfit with (or without) dragon belt buckles (\$440) and the ultra-soft knit shirt for him by Velvet Man. (I just got a long-sleeved T-shirt for Austin with colorful, straight applique (Chaco-style, a receiver) in jeans. See that.)

11:30 a.m. Evening Star Cafe (2000 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria, Va., 703-549-7050) Chew Green salads (dressing on the side)—we've gotta fit into fall clothes! at this arty cafe. Gilberts and I talk fashion and plot our next. She likes shops in Alexandria, because, "they have such fun items, and it's quieter and less fast-pace than Georgetown."

12:30 p.m. The Remix (1906 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria, Va., 703-549-4103) Remo



lets—a black cloche, a yellow chiffon pillow that’s as large as a towel, a table at the front of this hipster vintage shop. The stock here, mostly 1950s through 1980s, includes party frocks, interesting jewelry and Rat Pack-style men’s wear.

Fingering a ivory evening bag, Gibbons says, “Vintage pieces have moved beyond the trends. They make a statement, since they are completely outside of fashion.” She also gravitates toward a 1960s yellow quilted jacket and a 1950s green brocade dress with matching coat.

1:15 p.m. Myrtle (125 S. Fairfax St., 703-348-1415) When Gibbons and I arrive, a gaggle of fit-first-wearing shoppers, mostly females, are sifting through the sale racks at this green-walled boutique. Gibbons likes the historic, rowhouse-turned-house of style, because it’s so good for basics—suits, cocktail dresses.

She first hits of girls’ high-waist stuff: “Ivy suits in turquoise and brown (S298), a Lela Rose evening gown in pleated, champagne silk that Gibbons tries on as a potential wedding dress—yep, she’s due to be the bride in the spring. But my love?” Rebecca Taylor’s jackets

continue in a taupe fabric with pink dots—no No. 60 fabric!

2 p.m. Shee Hwa (715 S. Royal St., 703-348-7500) These Sox and the City girls would love this toy shop, where checkerboard floors and Lucite chairs provide a stylish backdrop for pumps, flats and boots by Enna Hope, Hugs, Cynthia Rowley and other trendsetters. We try on Brno’s croquet, flamingo-foot boots (S200) and green party hair pumps by Bettina Mueller.

3 p.m. Romance for the Games (702 King St., Alexandria, Va., 703-348-1122) Venetian mirrors, a bomb chest and polished wood floors summon a boulevard-vibe at this lingerie store, which Gibbons brings clients to for pajamas, French underpinnings, swimwear and bustiers. She points me toward Oberly parties (S207) in watermelon and turquoise and Claire Pettibone’s ribbon and lace ribbons “that you could wear out over jeans and a cami-tee.” I pick up a set of pink PJs before we leave; it’s been a living situation, and I can think of nothing but taking a long nap. And thanks to Gibbons, I’ll look stylish while I snooze. ●

Elizabeth Gibbons (left) checks out the vintage styles at Alexandria, Virginia’s Beaux Boutiques. Handbags and hats (right) figure in the store’s looks. beauxboutiques.com