



PENELOPE'S



P.O.S.H.



readers' choice **Chicago**

Amazing vintage furniture, cool under-the-radar clothing labels and exotic jewelry—the Windy City has it all. **By Elise Loehnen**

Asrai Garden

Moodily lit and decked out in foliage, this flower shop/gift store feels extravagantly lush, just like its handmade, embroidered necklaces and artisanal candles. **1935 W. NORTH AVE., 773-782-0680**

Blake

This is the best spot in town for avant-garde labels—Dries Van Noten, Marni—and equally forward finds, like Nicholas Kirkwood heels. **212 W. CHICAGO AVE., 312-202-0047**

Brimfield

This newish home goods spot looks like an English countryside antiques shop that's had

CONFETTI NECKLACE, \$90, SPINTHREAD. ASRAI GARDEN, 773-782-0680



a run-in with a Native American trading post. Highlights include footstools upholstered in iconic Hudson Bay prints. **5219 N. CLARK ST., 773-271-3501**

Broadway Antique Market

A maze-like array of cases, packed with blown-glass vases, enamel Chicago charms and prints from the '60s, makes it easy to spend a whole afternoon here. **6130 N. BROADWAY ST., 773-743-5444, BAMCHICAGO.COM**

Chalk Boutique

Though it's officially situated in the burbs, Chalk has a citified feel. Patchwork Chris Benz skirts hang next to slick black pants (artfully turned out by Olivier Theyskens for Theory). **2611 PRAIRIE AVE., EVANSTON, 847-424-0011, CHALKOFEVANSTON.COM**

Dovetail Chicago

There's an offbeat vibe here: The wallpaper-wrapped room hosts cool drawings by locals and racks are dotted with pristine vintage picks, like delicately patterned shirdresses and ballet-hued silk tops. **1452 W. CHICAGO AVE., 312-243-3100, DOVETAILCHICAGO.COM**

Edgewater Antique Mall

A recent trip to this expansive antiques mall turned up both a Coogi sweater from the '80s and a rainbow's worth of Bakelite bracelets. **6314 N. BROADWAY ST., 773-262-2525, EDGEWATERANTIQUEMALL.COM**

CRAFTERALL CHICAGO ON LAKE MICHIGAN HAND-CUT CARD, \$10, GREER, 312-337-8000



KÜHN KERAMIK
OVAL PLATE WITH
PUG, \$75, MORLEN
SINOWAY ATELIER,
312-432-0100

Eskell

It's one of Chicago's big success stories (the label is sold at some of the best boutiques in the States), so it's no surprise that the Eskell flagship is equally cool: Beyond the beautifully patterned in-house line, there's a great array of nicely priced labels like Minkpink. **1509 N. MILWAUKEE AVE., 773-486-0830, ESKELL.COM**

Greer

A giant oak library counter and antique card catalogs make it feel like a study, appropriate since Greer is exclusively devoted to exquisite stationery, journals and pens. **1657 N. WELLS ST., 312-337-8000, GREERCHICAGO.COM**

Helen Yi

Helen Yi has been one of Chicago's fashion pacesetters for nearly a decade, and somehow it's lost none of its edge: Gorgeously tailored Derek Lam blazers mingle with feminine blouses by Barbara Bui. **1725 N. DAMEN AVE., 773-252-3838**

Isabella Fine Lingerie

Everyday wearable underpinnings—that are still undeniably pretty—are consistently stocked at this Chicago institution. **840 W. ARMITAGE AVE., 773-281-2352, SHOPISABELLA.COM**



MERZ APOTHECARY



BRIMFIELD

Kaveri

Tucked away on a quiet stretch near DePaul University, Kaveri focuses on slightly adventurous cuts, like cropped Rag &



CHALK BOUTIQUE

FROM THE READERS' SURVEY:
“The one place I’ve never been to is Chicago. I’d love to go and scope out the shopping areas there.”
 —Debbie Diebold, 53, Newark, Ohio
 LUCKY READER SINCE 2009

Bone bombers and slouchy Demy Lee cashmere sweaters. **1211 W. WEBSTER AVE., 773-296-2141, EKAVERI.COM**

Kokorokoko

Styled like an '80s Afro-pop parlor, this newcomer specializes in wildly well-priced vintage pieces (it's hard to find anything that tops \$40), including grandpa cardigans and Swatch watches. **1112 N. ASHLAND AVE.,**

Deal Hunter
 FREE STUFF,
 DISCOUNTS AND COOL
 EXTRAS. TEXT DHMAY2
 TO 58259 TO PLAY!

773-252-6996, KOKO-ROKOKO .BLOGSPOT.COM

Lulu's at the Belle Kay

The emphasis here is on costume jewelry—all arranged in the center of the store—but the bordering racks deserve a look, too, since they're lined with vintage party dresses, many from highly coveted names.

3862 N. LINCOLN AVE., 773-404-5858, LULUSBELLEKAY.COM



CHALK BOUTIQUE: COURTESY OF CHALK BOUTIQUE; MERZ APOTHECARY: COURTESY OF MERZ APOTHECARY; BRIMFIELD: NATHAN MICHAEL; ILLUSTRATION: MICHAEL HILL; STILL LIVES: LUCKY DIGITAL STUDIO.



ASRAI GARDEN

Merz Apothecary

Truly old-world (it's been around since 1875), Merz stocks an intensive array of hard-to-find beauty labels, like 4711 (the world's first cologne) and Badger. **4716 N. LINCOLN AVE., 773-989-0900, SMALLFLOWER.COM**



SARCA

Morlen Sinoway Atelier

Occupying a garage-like, sun-drenched corner in the Meatpacking District, this looks



MORLEN SINOWAY ATELIER

P.O.S.H.

Hotel silver, historic Queen-emblazoned ashtrays from the U.K. and a smattering of ephemera add up to P.O.S.H.'s enduringly great Parisian-flea-market feel. **613 N. STATE ST., 312-280-1602, POSHCHICAGO.COM**



HYACINTH NECKLACE, \$260, ORLY GINGER BY JACLYN MAYER. SPACE 519, 312-751-1519

Post 27

A pioneer in Chicago's quickly burgeoning West Town, Post 27—devoted to antiques and up-and-coming furniture and industrial designers—sits in a warehouse-size space but feels thoroughly intimate, thanks to expertly arranged mini areas. **1819 W. GRAND AVE., 312-829-6122, POST27STORE.COM**



SILK "HATTIE" TANK, \$215, ESKELL, 773-486-0830

Ravenswood Antique Mart

It may be a big antiques mart, but everything here feels special and handpicked: There's an entire case of owl medallions, plus design classics, like George Nelson clocks and Paul McCobb desks. **4727 N. DAMEN AVE., 773-271-3700, RAVENSWOODANTIQUEMART.COM**

like a gallery at first glance. Closer inspection reveals paper-thin, bright orange serving bowls and baskets from Mali. **1052 W. FULTON MARKET ST., 312-432-0100, MORLENSINOWAY.COM**

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This was one of our favorite boutiques in the country when *Lucky* launched more than a decade ago: It's still spot-on, offering labels like Winifred Grace, Lizzie Fortunato Jewels and 3.1 Phillip Lim. **1643 N. DAMEN AVE., 773-862-4523, P45.COM**

Penelope's

Slightly retro, preppy standards by labels like A.P.C. set the tone here—while checkboard floors and midcentury-modern fixtures contribute to its schoolhouse vibe. **1913 W. DIVISION ST., 773-395-2351, SHOPPENELOPES.COM**



ASRAI GARDEN: JEREMY LAWSON; MORLEN SINOWAY ATELIER: COURTESY OF MORLEN SINOWAY ATELIER; SARCA: COURTESY OF SARCA; ILLUSTRATION: MICHAEL HILL; STILL LIVES: LUCKY DIGITAL STUDIO.

Renegade Handmade

The bricks-and-mortar outpost of the famous crafts fair of the same name, this tiny store is packed with handmade things, including adorable stationery and cute canvas totes.

1924 W. DIVISION ST., 773-227-2707,

**RENEGADE
HANDMADE
.COM**

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SHAPES AND
COLORS
NAVAJO QUILT
PILLOW, \$52,
POST 27,
312-829-6122



RENEGADE HANDMADE

denim trousers and spiky Camilla Skovgaard heels. **710 N. WABASH AVE., 312-255-0900**

Silver Moon

Antique 19th-century wedding dresses get top billing here, but the real pull is the racks up front, full of gorgeous, big-event gowns. **1721 W. NORTH AVE., 773-235-5797, SILVERMOONVINTAGE.COM**

Space 519

Sprawled out on the fifth floor of one of Michigan Avenue's main malls, this spot feels like a well-kept secret: Coffee-table books, rare European beauty products, cashmere sweaters and a smattering of cool antiques set the eclectic tone.

900 N. MICHIGAN AVE., 312-751-1519, SPACE519.COM



SILK "AKINA" DRESS, \$495, ELIZABETH AND JAMES. ROSLYN, 773-489-1311

Sprout Home

At this store devoted to all things garden-related, you should definitely pay special

attention to the wildly cool (and packable) terrariums, peopled with hilarious miniature figurines. **745 N. DAMEN AVE., 312-226-5950, SPROUTHOME.COM**

Stitch

There's an intensive array of Missoni home goods at this long-standing accessories emporium, but it finds fitting company with the equally luxe-feeling (but well-priced) handbags by Carla Mancini and woven Presh bracelets. **1723 N. DAMEN AVE., 773-782-1570,**

STITCHCHICAGO.COM



VITELLO WOVEN WEDGES, \$795, ALEJANDRO INGELMO FOR CHRIS BENZ. CHALK BOUTIQUE, 847-424-0011

Romantic one-off tops by Luxury Jones hang next to Christina Hattler dresses. **2035 N. DAMEN AVE., 773-489-1311, ROSLYN BOUTIQUE.COM**

R.S.V.P. Gallery

This new below-ground spot is a street-inspired concept shop: Christopher Kane T-shirts, Alexander Wang sunglasses and Dee and Ricky Lego brooches abound. **1753 N. DAMEN AVE., 773-770-6666, RSVPGALLERY.COM**

Sarca

Located just off the primary downtown shopping stretch, Sarca is well worth seeking out: Avant-garde Vivienne Westwood dresses mingle with Grey Ant



ROSLYN



ESKELL

Robin Richman

When it comes to a subtly bohemian aesthetic—served up via Gary Graham's asymmetrical dresses and exotically tinged jewelry—Robin Richman always gets the city's top honors. **2108 N. DAMEN AVE., 773-278-6150, ROBINRICHMAN.COM**

Roslyn

It may be helmed by a J.Crew veteran, but there's nothing preppy about Roslyn:

RENEGADE-HANDMADE: COURTESY OF RENEGADE-HANDMADE; ROSLYN: COURTESY OF ROSLYN; ESKELL: REBECCA GREENFIELD; STILL LIVES: LUCKY DIGITAL STUDIO.