

SAN DIEGO HOME/GARDEN LIFESTYLES

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A 'Gifted' Waterfront Garden
Summer Pasta



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SCENTS AND SENSIBILITY

A soft breeze helped the pale pink fragrance of Cecile Brunner roses reach me even before I ducked through the arbor and into the front door of **Rare Bird**, the popular Mission Hills consignment shop. Multiple rooms of this snug cottage stay pretty tightly packed with a revolving array of furnishings, books, china, paintings and mirrors. Best sellers still are Mid-century style, but this is truly a treasure hunt for all periods. Recently, a couple of original **MacKenzie-Childs** pieces flew through, and a leather-wrapped **Henredon** desk held its head high, so to speak. Perhaps business is so brisk that a second location is justified.

A move to a new neighborhood is happening as we speak for **Mark Matheson**, who is relocating his **Grace-ful Living** from North Park to Encinitas, where, settling in across from Home Depot should provide plenty of foot traffic.

Restaurant interiors continue to be the buzz in this town in a flurry of creativity. A morning

tour with the inimitable **Diane Powers** at her new **Casa Sol y Mar** in Del Mar Highlands Town Center included a few nostalgic exchanges about the 1950s and '60s design scene here that we remember. At her new restaurant, a veritable parade of pendant Mexican starry lanterns illuminates the main dining room. A fiesta of intense color is everywhere, including in the place settings, and a latia ceiling and images of cactus and agave add more atmosphere. Don't miss a collection of 1940s pottery on display and the serape designs of the upholstery hand woven in contemporary colors.

Up Kensington way, **Tracy Borkum** has morphed the old Kensington Grill into **Fish Public** with a totally redone, Nantucket interior of watery new tile; worn and grayed boards that look like survivors of a nor'easter; and breezy blue, green and yellow striped seat cushions.

I hear they're covering the walls at the **Louis Vuitton** showroom in Shanghai in eel skin and straw. Are we ahead or behind?



Fish Public's lighting and chair designs are being offered for sale at urbankitchengroup.com/our-store.



René Gruau Illustrations on Zinc Textile fabrics

Diane Powers' eye for color at Casa Sol y Mar

Obelisk Mercantile in Hillcrest should be approaching a grand opening this month. Owner **Brett Serwalt** took me on an early tour where I discovered he's hung the iconic old Hillcrest sign over the checkout counter and furnished the place with industrial flair. With his neighbors including Torreon Importers and establish (see *Hot Finds & Cool Stuff*), this may be a new shopping destination.

We absolutely love the idea of the Runway Collection featuring **René Gruau's** vintage fashion illustrations on **Zinc Textile** fabrics in Tom Lavin's showroom at the Pacific Design Center. Talk about a new way to hang art!

The IFDA "Take a Seat" fundraiser drew a crowd, and lucky bidders are enjoying their witty art pieces. Shown below are two of the more functional chairs: **Dennis Schlentz's** nod to George Nakashima, made of salvaged walnut hardwood, and the more traditional **Swaim** classic chair from **Witford Laguna** in a

Schumacher fabric pairing chosen by area rep **Adrienne Kravchuk** and realized by upholsterer **Lisa Davis**.

Interior designer **Tracy Taylor** recently greeted me at the door of **Hold It Contemporary Home**, where he is now a design consultant, and showed me around the latest chairs and tables (see *Hot Finds & Cool Stuff*).

The party of the year may have been **Mingei Museum's** 35th anniversary dinner gala, also saluting regal founder **Martha Longenecker's** birthday. I enjoyed dining on the wildly inventive cuisine of Baja chef **Miguel Angel Guerrero** with Mingei Director **Rob Sidner**, Timken Museum of Art Director **John Wilson** and his wife, and San Diego Museum of Art's Executive Director **Roxana Velasquez** and mate, among others.

A chance encounter at the Hillcrest Farmers Market elicited the news that **Spurlock Poirier** will be receiving a national American Society of Landscape Artists award for the **Phoenix Botanical Garden** this fall. See this month's Dialogue for more on SP. ♦



"Take a Seat" contribution of Dennis Schlentz



"Take a Seat" contribution of Team Schumacher