

# Hidden Gem

The Home & Garden Shop in Troy showcases superior design.

By Shelly Johnson

Photography by Jerry Zolynsky

Tucked away on a nondescript side street in Troy is a virtual treasure trove of unique and beautiful design elements sure to satisfy the most scrupulous of tastes. The Home and Garden Shop, owned and created by Wendy Alterman of Alterman Interiors, is a shopping destination open not just to designers, but also to anyone interested in taking their design aspirations to the next level.

The building is located between 14 and Coolidge roads at 2826 Industrial Road and the experience begins when you enter the front doors. Modern design Continued on page 32



Top: Skins, hides, stones and other natural surfaces abound in the accessories area. Bottom left: The Man Cave department has every base covered, from barware to neckware, leather goods to grooming gear. Bottom middle: Troy Home and Garden Shop has fashion, furnishings, accessories, art, vintage treasures, teen trends, you name it. Bottom right: Classic, modern, vintage, traditional furnishings abound.



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mixes with traditional and Old World entwines with mid-century modern in a seamless, flawless pallet of color, texture and refinement of style.

Handpicked and sometimes personally created by Alterman herself, the collection within the store is a unique and breath-taking jewel.

Libby Cortez, who handles Alterman's media relations, says, "The Home and Garden Shop is more than just a store. It's a destination shopping experience. Simply put, Wendy is a creator. Beyond her impeccable eye for interiors, she's a wellspring of new and exciting perspectives on everything from design trends to entertaining, travel, cooking, painting, gardening, raising animals, mothering four children and more — all of which she explores in engaging detail at the

Home & Garden Shop and on her blog."

The items in the building are not featured in catalogs. They are one-of-a-kind pieces of art in addition to being functional in the home. Around every corner are luxurious rooms set up or areas that invite you in to visually explore. For instance, a huge hanging wooden daybed adorned with fluffy, bright pillows and cushions beckons you to have a seat and gently swing as if you are in the tropics.

Across the way are large, ivory French country frames featuring black and white photographs of close-ups of children's faces. Underfoot are soft, sumptuous rugs that encircle wrought-iron or glass tables next to eclectic wooden furniture pieces that make statements of their own.

It's clear that natural elements can mix with industrial surfaces in an alluring fashion in Alterman's vignettes throughout the shop.

This place is a hidden gem teeming with everything from custom furniture to handpicked antiques, exclusive local jewelry lines to top women's fashion, dazzling artwork to luxurious apothecary goods.

Departments include Drape for women's clothing, shoes, handbags and accessories; Surf 'n' Turf for kids and teens; and the Man Cave for men's accessories. In addition, there are necessities for the bar, vintage sports items, unique candles, dishes, soaps and organics.

"Wendy often makes signature design pieces for clients by transforming natural materials into striking

works of art," Cortez says. "She is known for her taste and versatility and is esteemed for her prolific interior design portfolio of the always fresh and breathtaking collections featured at the Home & Garden Shop."

Alterman's designs are beautiful and fanciful. In summation of the space, Cortez describes it as a place "where modern and organic meets traditional, where luxury gets smart, where natural elements reign supreme and great design always enjoys a much-needed injection of fun and whimsy." **NS**

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Top: A collection of hats for the fashion-forward and a selection of home accessories from pillows and lamps to wall art. Bottom: Fabulous finds for the home, vignettes provide design ideas to spark your imagination and fun footwear for summer nights.