



WORKING ON A HOME MAGAZINE, WE SEE THE FINEST IN
 JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING. FOR YOU, WE HAVE DRAWN
 UPON PREVIOUS OBSERVATIONS, INTERVIEWED EXPERTS,
 CANVASSED SOURCES AND SCoured SHOPS TO PICK OUR
 TOPS OF THE CITY'S VAST RESOURCES, A TO W

the

BEST

of (just about)
 everything,

A-W

BY MARGARET BAUER, ERIN CALLIER, DAYNA CROZIER, THOMAS CRONE, NICOLE
 BENOIST EDGERTON, MARY ANN HOLLEY, ELIZABETH LEWIS, CHRISTY MARSHALL,
 STEFENE RUSSELL, KATIE BETH RYAN, LISA SCHULTZ, ALLIE WIECZOREK



the **BEST** of
everything, **A-W**

GUTTER REPAIR, COPPER

Pick: ACE ST. LOUIS LLC

"Copper is an art, aluminum is not." So says Casey Graves, proprietor of Ace St. Louis. When it comes to copper gutters, Mr. Graves and his crew won't slap a Band-Aid on the problem and drive away. They reattach, reinstall and rehabilitate copper gutters gone awry. What's more, they make sure that the end result is easy on the eyes. After all, when the gutter is copper, it's not there merely to retain water: "It's something that people want to be aesthetically pleasing, too." 314-892-9888, acestlouis.com

H

HOME ACCESSORIES

Pick: THE DESIGNING BLOCK

And we know there are people reading this and shouting, "HomeGoods" in response to the query of who leads in the home-accessory field. Sure, for deals, that mega-marketer is great. But, we ask, does its merchandise exude great taste and an undeniable wit? We think not. There are enough excellent home-accessory stores in this city to fill several pages. We could list them forever and never cover them all. So we're going to tiptoe to the edge of the precipice and just announce our favorite for both the finishing and the funky touch—and that would be The Designing Block. Owned and operated by interior designer (and philanthropist, see pg. 32) Susan Block, the store is packed to the point of bursting with everything you could possibly think of for a home—furniture included. Whether your taste is traditional or contemporary, you will find something to love here. And the store sells lines not available elsewhere. 7735 Clayton, 314-721-4224, thedesigningblock.net



THE DESIGNING BLOCK

IRRIGATION SYSTEM

Pick: GREEN TURF

IAs a kid, you desperately wished your parents would spring for an in-ground pool. But these days, grown-up thoughts of a soft, green lawn—one your neighbors will envy, and preferably one you'll never have to spend time watering—consume your idle moments. Well, growing up doesn't mean you have to disappoint your inner child. Talk to Green Turf—they'll level your bumpy lawn, then install the in-ground sprinkler system and pool of your dreams,

plus a patio, terraces, a stacked-stone retaining wall and dramatic nighttime lighting. The only thing they won't do is mow that fast-growing tangle of grass left in the sprinkler system's wake. 73 Millwell, 314-739-0410, greenturf.net

J JEWELRY REPAIR

Pick: TIMEKEEPERS

JWe all have them: those brooches with loose settings that we're afraid to wear. Those old watches that just stopped working. Deciding to get these pieces fixed is too often a cost-benefit analysis: Do I have time to worry about this? We know that, and

PHOTOGRAPHY BY FRANK DI PIAZZA



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we also know this: There's someone who can help. TimeKeepers proprietor Semyon Ilyashov and his daughters can fix anything you give them, and at a reasonable price. In the business for 70 years, they see jewelry repair as no simple service, but rather as an art. 17 N. Meramec, 314-721-4548; 9495 Olive, Suite C, 314-991-0994, watchclockjewelry.com

L

LIGHTING RESTORATION

Pick: ST. LOUIS ANTIQUE LIGHTING COMPANY

When the Federal Courthouse, the U.S. Capitol and Notre Dame (the one with the football team) needed help restoring the light fixtures, they came here, to the St. Louis Antique Lighting Company. Not only are they masters of bringing the dead chandelier back to life by retrofitting it with more advanced innards, they have the capability to replicate lost parts. The company manufactures historic lighting and custom architectural pieces. 801 N. Skinker, 314-863-1414

LIGHTING STORE

Pick: JON PAUL DESIGNS & COLLECTIBLES

Jon Paul Hunt says shoppers visit his store to get picked up. Others say it's a need to get lit. You'll say both. Jon Paul Designs is packed with 400 glorious crystal chandeliers, lamps, shades and more, spanning 100 years. All will light a room, and most of his mélange will lift your spirits. "It's the hunt, you know," says Mr. Hunt. Bring in your old, your broken. He'll fix it. If it's lost its luster, he'll restore it. Lighting, old and new, is Hunt's life. And FYI, everything is negotiable. 7014 Clayton, 314-645-2722, jonpauldesigns.com

LINEN RESTORER

Pick: BLANC PLUME

We actually don't have a local pick for this. We recommend Blanc Plume in Kansas City—it's one of the few real French laundries left in this country. Send your cherished baby dress or favorite tablecloth, and they will restore it to its original glory. Even such luxury linen lines as Anichini, Peacock Alley and Yves Delorme recommend their products be laundered at Blanc Plume. 1534 Burlington, N. Kansas City, 800-307-0229, blancplume.com

LINEN STORE

Pick: AMELIA'S FINE LINENS

Yes, this store is the new kid on the block. And of course, others have been here longer and have larger collections. But if we were going to drop some dimes on our linens, this is where we'd go. The store has lines from Italy and Switzerland not offered elsewhere, the nighties are soft and sumptuous, and the sheets? Ooh la la. Forget thread counts. Some of these suckers are silk. Others are simply so soft they feel like they were woven by hand. 17041 Baxter, 636-728-0455

M

MASON

Pick: MARK SEIBEL, J.V. SEIBEL & SONS

The patio was perfect. The stone was laid in artful ways, the wall just the perfect height, the result a place where you would want to sip your wine and show off to friends. The creator? Mark Seibel of J.V. Seibel & Sons. His reputation, particularly among designers, is golden. Not only is the company's work meticulous, but also the people who work there are both easy to work with and very nice. 311 Sante, 314-909-8787



THIS PAGE: PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF SEBERRA FINE LINENS; OPPOSITE PAGE: PHOTOGRAPHY BY ALISE O'BRIEN; COURTESY OF THOMAS SPRICK



Antiques are a “GREEN” Choice!

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U

UPHOLSTERER

Pick: GOMEZ REUPHOLSTERY

There is a lot of competition in this category. We think a number of companies—including Lulu Belles, T. Rohan, The Fabric Company and Zollinger—are absolutely fabulous. But we’re only gonna pick one, and it’s Jose Gomez. He moved from Miami to St. Louis because it reminded him of his native Honduras. There, from his father, he learned the nips and tucks of the upholstery business—a trade he perfected during his eight years in Florida. 6487 Chippewa, 314-832-8331, gomezreupholstery.com

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W

WALLPAPER HANGER

Pick: RICE PAINTING CO., INC.

Wallpaper is back with a vengeance, and luckily, it has a new look. Whether you’re doing your whole house or a simple accent wall, hanging wallpaper is unquestionably a “do not try this at home” project. It’s the sort of thing better left to experts like Rice Painting Co., Inc. Founded by Jerry Rice and Bob Schultz in 1973, Rice’s custom paperhanging has acquired the abiding admiration of some of the area’s most respected designers and contractors. 19 W. Moody, 314-961-3988, ricepainting.com



T. ROHAN INC.

WALLS, FABRIC & MORE

Pick: T. ROHAN INC.

In truth, we'd pick T. Rohan for more than just covering our walls in fabric (see Jeannette). We'd pick the owner, Tim Rohan, to decorate our house, and we'd opt for the Rohan workroom to reupholster our chairs, create upholstered furniture and, oh yeah, make our headboards. The shop has its own fabric library, which you are invited to use. The workmanship is top-notch and very detailed. 7310 Manchester, 314-647-7400

WINDOW RETAILER

Pick: LOEWEN WINDOW CENTER OF ST. LOUIS

For more than 100 years, Loewen has been manufacturing some of the sturdiest, highest-quality and best-looking windows in the business. In the luxury world, they wear the crown. Loewen offers nine window categories, all manufactured only with wood: casement, bow and bay, double-hung, picture, awning, access, transom, and custom and specialty windows. 9710 Manchester, 314-699-9872, loewen.com

WINDOW WASHER

Pick: G&G WINDOW CLEANING

In the armed forces, you expect to get dirty—and then you're expected to get your gear cleaner than clean. So it's little surprise that ex-military couple Dennis and Micaela Brunelle's window-cleaning service comes highly recommended by its clients. 636-227-2200, g-gwindowcleaning.com

PHOTOGRAPH BY FRANK DIPIAZZA

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