

Our Annual Guide to Denver's Best Stuff!

5280

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15th Anniversary Issue

Top of the Town

Shoes

Massage

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BIKES

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MUSIC STORE

Women's Boutique

CONTEMPORARY FURNITURE

Athlete And Many More

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by DAVID HILL

ABDUCTED BY ALIENS
A Colorado Man
Reveals His Bizarre
CLOSE ENCOUNTERS
by PETER BRONSKI

EYEWEAR

EDITORS | DISRESPECTABLES

This Platte Street store feels like a hip art gallery, not a prescription glasses store. That's because the New York chain's Denver outpost makes eyewear an art form. Let manager Heidi Tanner (right) show off her talents by asking her to pick styles off the wall for you. She'll take a few risks, but you'll find a trendy-sophisticated pair to perch on your nose. 1550 Platte St., 303-458-0500, www.disrespectables.com



READERS | EUROPTICS

From lightweight designer frames made of surgical steel to sport-friendly Oakleys, Europtics' huge selection of eyewear is good for Colorado's schizophrenic lifestyle interests. The busy staff is helpful and honest, gently pointing out flaws and telling you when they love a pair. Multiple locations, www.europtics.net

West Coast chain, we presented the impossible: our own description of the perfect pair of jeans. The bartender/salesperson didn't even bat an eye but pulled three different styles off the bar and sent us to the dressing room. First pair? Perfect fit. Second pair? An even more perfect fit. Third pair? Well, we purchased those. The dressing rooms are each equipped with hand mirrors, so you can check out your derriere before heading out to the three-way to model. And, as a nice touch, the staff is quick to pull out a pair of heels or flip-flops so you can make sure your favorite shoes will work with your new favorite pair of jeans. 250 Fillmore St., 720-542-3756, www.thebluesjeanbar.com

READERS The Garment District

If options are what you want, it's options you'll get in this denim hotspot on South Colorado Boulevard. With dozens of styles to choose from (Rock & Republic, Citizens, Seven), you'll find a pair of jeans for a night on the town and a trip to the coffeeshop. Once

you're stocked up on denim, don't forget to browse the stellar selection of purses, shoes, and accessories to complete your outfit. 2595 S. Colorado Blvd., 303-757-3371, www.garmentdistrict.com

WOMEN'S SHOES

EDITORS Two Sole Sisters

We might sound like shoe divas with an obsession for all things south of the ankle, but we are totally enamored with this sparkly new shop on East Pearl Street in Boulder. Intrigued by the teal, ankle-wrap sandals beckoning from the front window display (Jeffrey Campbell, \$98), we popped in to the three-month-old boutique to find a lovely selection of cute flats by Biviell, flirty stilettos by Oh... Deer, and a Brazilian fair-trade line called Corso Como, whose kicks are not only fashion-forward, they're also straight-up comfy, thanks to the gel inserts in the foot-bed. Socially responsible, waaaaay hot, and walkable? Have we died and gone to heaven? 1703 Pearl St., Boulder, 303-442-0404, www.twosolesisters.com



Living Room 201

Sure, you've got the basics—the sofa, the coffee table, the entertainment hutch—but your living room feels like it needs a little something...special. Here are a few of our favorite stores for glamping up your home.

OCCASIONAL CHAIRS

HW Home

From upholstered wingbacks to leather clubs to salons, HW Home has an accent chair for any style. All of HW's pieces are made with fine craftsmanship, which, of course, you'll pay for. But they'll last you a lifetime. Multiple locations, www.hwhome.com

LAMPS

Conrad Lee Gallery

This Broadway newcomer has absolutely gorgeous home accessories (both refurbished antiques and new), but its selection of one-of-a-kind lamps—handcrafted by storeowners Jim Johnson and Paul Franke—and the sconces are what really wow us. 238 N. Broadway, 303-722-1005, www.conradlee.com

WALL ART

Piñon Fine Art

We've learned to count on this elegant Littleton gallery for some of the best landscape oils by Western artists. You're bound to find the perfect canvas for that empty spot above the fireplace. 2510 W. Main St., Littleton, 303-733-3133, www.pinonfineart.com

RUGS

Swank Space

This Highland mainstay moved to Cherry Creek North where it fills the urban-casual niche nicely. We like the well-edited selection of contemporary rugs—great for a playful splash of color. The prices are good, too. 270 Columbine St., 720-855-0725, www.swankspace.com

FRAMES

5 Green Boxes (The Big Store)

This furniture store (an offshoot of the Platt Park boutique by the same name) is one of our favorite places to find that artistic, conversation-worthy accent piece. The frames, especially, are super-unique. 1705 S. Pearl St., 303-282-5481, www.5greenboxes.com

THROW PILLOWS

One Home

If you're looking for traditional florals, this is probably not the place for you. But for a more architectural/contemporary splash of color, go to One Home. Ask for designs by Boulder company é bella. 2445 E. Third Ave., 720-946-1505, www.onehomedesign.com