

SHOPPING: Design Stars

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September shopping finds to fill your home

SHARP IMAGE

Function, meet form. “The idea was to take the **knife holder** off the counter—to make something more decorative than a big chunk of wood,” says Joshua Kanter, a furniture and cabinet craftsman in Great Barrington, Mass., who began designing the wall-mount kitchen accessories earlier this year. Kanter sources exotic wood from the scrap bin of

Berkshire Products in Ashley Falls, Mass., enlivening each with woven strips of veneer or burlled planks. Slots for up to eight knives of varying sizes extend through the device, ensuring that wayward water droplets or crumbs simply fall through the cracks.

Starting at \$55 at **JK Cabinets and Furniture** (<http://www.jkcabinetsandfurniture.org>), Great Barrington, Mass., 413.429.6840,



FRAME OF MIND

Clichés, smeeshays. **Sticks & Stones mirrors**, crafted by creative people with disabilities at Great Barrington’s Community Access to the Arts under the guidance of faculty artist and Cut It Out twig furnishings founder Janice Shields, are guaranteed



to elicit double-takes. Made of sticks collected in Stockbridge, Mass., and polished river stones, the organic adornments send a mighty message.

16- by 18-inch frames about \$125 at the **Berkshire**

Botanical Garden Shop

(<http://www.berkshirebotanical.org>),

Routes 102 & 183, Stockbridge, Mass., 413.298.3926; **Campo**

de' Fiori

(<http://www.campodefiori.com>),

1815 N. Main St./Route 7, Sheffield, Mass., 413.

413.528.1857; **Evergreen**

Fine American Crafts

(<http://www.evergreencrafts.com>),

291 Main St., Great Barrington,

Mass., 413.528.0511; **Community Access to the Arts**

(<http://www.communityaccesstothearts.org>), 40 Railroad St., Great Barrington, Mass.,

413.528.5485; **Cut It Out by Janice Shields** (<http://www.heycutitout.com>),

413.298.0677

LOOMING LARGE

Though tapestry fabrics have been fashionable for centuries, Adams, Mass.-based design outfit **Rennie & Rose** (<http://www.rennieandrose.com>) has helped to reinvigorate the traditional aesthetic in New England with its line of table runners, placemats, pillows, and throws. More than sixty designs—from the Art Nouveau collection's flowery stained-glass-like configurations to the colorful, graphic patterns known as the calling cards of Frank Lloyd Wright—are woven from cotton blends at American mills; Wright-inspired fabric will be unveiled next year.



About \$14 to \$74 at **Red Lion Inn Gift Shop**



(<http://www.redlioninn.com>), Main

Street, Stockbridge, Mass., 413.298.1623; **Rennie & Rose**

(<http://www.rennieandrose.com>), 413.445.7444

YOU MAY ASK YOURSELF...

It started with a daffodil. During a regular morning sketching session back in April 2009, artist, health coach, and physical therapist **Donna McKeen Condon** of Great



Barrington, Mass., twirled a flower bud in her hands. "What if I just..." she thought out loud, "...open?" The first of her happy, hopeful credos was born. Now Condon creates about twenty simple ink-and-watercolor designs, which she prints herself on note cards, textiles, and ceramic, glass,

and porcelain tiles used as drink coasters, wall art, or in home renovations. "Nature and the world offer instructional metaphors," Condon coos. "Life doesn't need to be that complicated. We overanalyze, we spend more time thinking than just doing—and feeling."

4- by 4-inch tiles about \$10 and 6- by 8-inch tiles about \$20 at **Chocolate Springs** (<http://www.chocolatesprings.com>), 55 Pittsfield Rd./Route 7, Lenox, Mass., 413.637.9820;

Kripalu Shop (<http://www.kripalu.org>), Route 183, Stockbridge, Mass., 866.200.5203;

Red Lion Inn Gift Shop (<http://www.redlioninn.com>), Main Street, Stockbridge, Mass., 413.298.1623; **What If I Just** (<http://www.whatifijust.com>), Great Barrington, Mass., 413.854.1546

BOOM, ROOSTED

Fast on the heels of two mainstream trends—crafting décor from salvaged materials and homesteading—Paul Lenny of the B. Mango and Bird boutique in Lenox, Mass.,



nabbed seventy-five **chicken nesting boxes** circa-1930

from Eastern Europe. "People just don't raise them like this anymore," Lenny says of the

tin-and-wood structures that predate the excessively cramped

quarters of today's factory farms. Mount one outside to fill with plants and birdseed or repurpose it as an interior shelf and revel in curious inquiries. Quips Lenny: "Your neighbors are not going to have one of these."



Singles, doubles, and triples about \$125 to \$175 at **B. Mango and Bird**

(<http://www.bmangoandbird.com>), 74 Main St., Lenox, Mass., 413.637.2611

HERE COMES THE SUN, AGAIN

Longtime collectors of traditional American stoneware handmade by Bennington Potters may be thrilled to discover that the artisanal Vermont factory is reviving—

after a five-year hiatus—its sunny **Morning Glory Yellow Dinnerware**. But hurry: the mottled-sunshine glaze, introduced in the 1970s, colors soup bowls, trigger mugs, and three sizes of plates in a special-edition run set to expire in 2011.



Sets of four, about \$56 to \$96 at **Bennington Potters Yard Factory Store**

(<http://www.benningtonpotters.com>), 324 County St., Bennington, Vt., 800.205.8033

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