



Ready, Set, SHOP!

By Glen Peloso

The job of sourcing and shopping for your home décor items can be a fun and interesting challenge, provided that you are in search of something specific. Just shopping for “stuff,” can leave you with a space that is just filled with stuff. Figure out what you are looking for specifically, and then run out to see it and purchase it for your space. But sometimes, you don’t even have to leave the house to find some pretty incredible things. What follows is a list of some great places for great finds:

1. SHELTER A new store on Caledonia Rd., with a great collection of furniture, art and accessories that crosses the line between old and new, modern, classic and “found objects.” It’s worth having a look at, as it also places you in the design district of Caledonia and Castlefield to continue your sourcing efforts!
shelterfurniture.ca

2. GROWN DESIGN A combination of retail and custom-made pieces in a shop with staff that understands carpentry, design and style. Even if “that great idea” is stuck in your head or there is a “perfect” piece but that needs to be a specific size, they are your guys.

growndesign.com

3. HOMESENSE A great place to discover everything from accessories and tableware to furniture art and carpets. It changes all the time so you never know what you will get – but be careful – it’s easy to leave with “stuff” you didn’t really need. Go with a purpose and if it isn’t there, try another day.

homesense.ca

4. EQ3 Great for furniture at a reasonable price with lots of style and interest. They have a large selection of mid-century and modern elements that are great for everything from a house to a smaller condo. Good price points and knowledgeable staff to help you put it all together – more than just an average furniture store.

eq3.com

5. ANTICA STONE & TILE A wide variety of tiles from porcelain to stone with a nice selection of mosaics for all the tiled surfaces in your home or condo. Want to add some “bling” to your backsplash, foyer or kitchen floor?

There is always something great to find at Amtica.

antica.ca

6. UMBRA While you can find umbra at many stores the John St. location can give you some new and interesting things to accessorize in funky ways. Everything from a very cool bowl to some innovative wallpaper, pillows, frames, curtain rods and just about everything in between. It’s hard to walk out empty handed – even if it is to fill the “gift cupboard.”

umbra.com

7. JULIEN ARMAND A new shop, a bit out of the way but very good mid-century furniture items. These designs have been famous for 80 years and are really made well. Everything from kitchens to beautiful Italian leather sofas, Barcelona chairs and Eames furniture to interesting clocks and lighting features.

julienarmand.ca

8. LOWES While it is a big box store, it has focused not only on the average building materials available at most big box. They offer more interesting fixtures, lighting, outdoor furniture, faucets and appliances than any other. It’s a ideal place to find “more than the average” and it’s ready to take home right away.

lowes.ca



9. SMASH Here's a store filled with all kinds of architectural finds. You never know what you will discover, but it will be things that are always interesting. Use your own imagination and elbow grease or they will do it for you. Always fascinating at the very least!

smash.to

BUT WHEN YOU JUST DONT WANT TO LEAVE YOUR HOME – FIND IT ONLINE!

There are some really terrific online shopping websites available these days that come from all over the country and you can often get a better price if the store is “virtual.” You don't have to help them pay the rent or the lighting and staffing bills!

CRAIGSLIST.CA You can get just about anything you would like here. Some great accessories, furniture, exercise equipment, bikes and watches. It can be “buyer beware,” but if you are able to check it out – the prices just can't be beaten. If you really love a “deal,” this is a great place to find things.

NEIMANMARCUS.COM It's not always easy to get to NYC to do your shopping, but you can get anything that you desire, including really beautiful items made specifically for the store and never leave your house. The “home décor” section is very impressive and easy to navigate – I like it!

ABCHOME.COM One of my favourite stores in NYC with some of the most interesting furniture, accessories and carpets that are available in North America. The online store is very detailed in terms of sizes, prices and delivery methods – you can't go wrong here.

UMBRA.COM You can find all the great umbra stuff and then some, with the online store. The prices tend to be a bit better and the return policy is also very easy to deal with.

APLUSRSTORE.COM The web store is a treasure trove of things for your home, garden and sometimes even for yourself. This web store contains fascinating collections of items from around the world that can be shipped to Canada. When you just can't find it by hitting the pavement!

APARTMENTTHERAPY.COM While it is mainly a place that you can get inspiration, it can also help you with finding great online locations for those ideas. I love it as a source of inspiration sometimes, sending me to



a local store and sometimes to a great Internet site – but always check that the online shop will deliver to Canada!

EBAY.COM We all know about it, and for some, it can be an online store where you can really find everything. You will want to check the user reviews to make sure you are dealing with a legitimate vendor. Everything from a Rolls Royce to a package of gum is available here. This store is as vast as it gets!



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