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THE ART & DESIGN ISSUE

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Alice Cottrell's Austin Edit

Known for blending vintage finds into modern interiors, the Dallas interior designer shares her favorite spots just three hours south.

BY ROB BRINKLEY



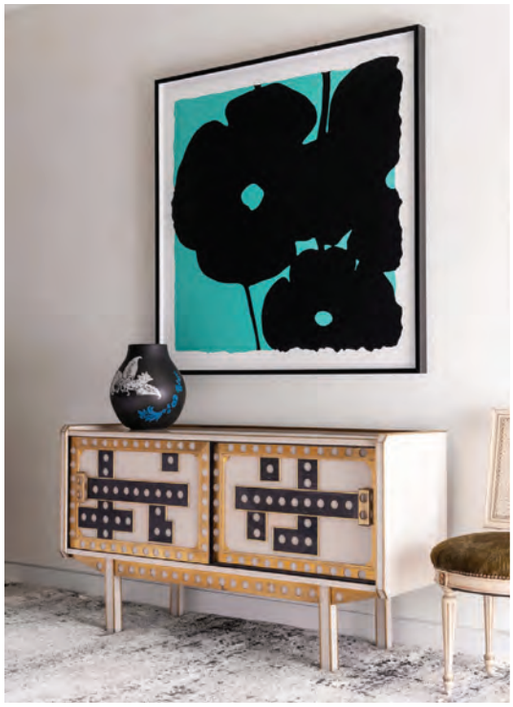


Vintage glass lamps are a specialty at Jean-Marc Fray, where Cottrell loves the blend of styles and eras of furnishings, too. Photographs by Sherwin Rivera Tibayan.

Alice Cottrell is a modernist with a twist. Even though the Dallas-based interior designer creates diverse interiors with collaborator Gary Hatch for homes all over the map—Texas, Colorado, Malibu, Miami—something ties them all together: depth. Cottrell has a way of infusing an airy room with layers and textures ever-so subtly, resulting in an infinitely comfy experience. One of her hallmarks? Stirring in unexpected vintage pieces among established contemporary classics. "I'm fuzzier than most strict modernists," says Cottrell, who loves velvets, soft carpets, plush fabrics, even flocked wallpapers—though not the Victorian kind. And while she certainly has her favorite local shops, she also likes Austin, Texas, for having something Dallas doesn't: 20th-century vintage furniture stores where almost everything comes from Europe. We asked the inimitable Alice for her Austin itinerary.

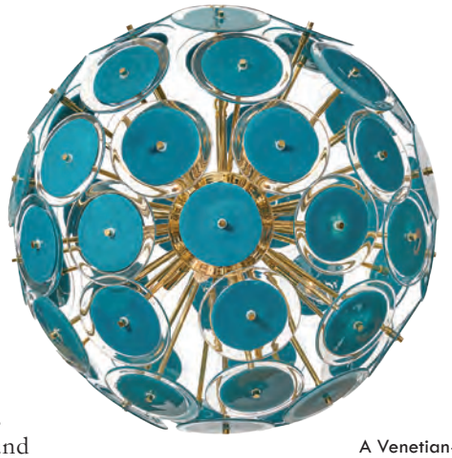


The Renner Project's fully styled rooms inspire unconventional mixing.



An Alice Cottrell and Gary Hatch project in Dallas featuring a 1960s Italian credenza made of Murano glass and brass found at Jean-Marc Fray in Austin, an antique Louis XVI–style chair, and a Hella Jongerius vase from Russell Brightwell. On the wall, a Donald Sultan silkscreen of flocked black poppies. Photograph by Stephen Karlisch.

THE RENNER PROJECT *Kimberly Renner, owner, principal designer*
Inside this redesigned 1970s office building, Cottrell loves the mix of 20th-century modern, vintage, and antique pieces with an unusual 50-year range presented in what the shop's website calls "a series of constantly changing roomscapes." You won't see the recognizable furniture icons here; the curation is more cerebral and offbeat, from Brutalist and Brazilian to Swedish and Swiss. The offerings include art, accessories, lighting, and case goods, too. "Kimberly creates these cozy, livable vignettes," Cottrell says of the fully styled rooms—down to the books, rugs, and accessories—"and that is super-helpful for visualizing things." Renner is certainly immersed in her work: She practices residential and commercial interior design and lives above the store and studio. 3018 North Lamar Boulevard (appointment only); therennerproject.com; Instagram therennerproject



A Venetian-glass Sputnik chandelier from Murano, Italy, at Jean-Marc Fray. Photograph by Sherwin Rivera Tibayan.

JEAN-MARC FRAY
Jean-Marc Fray, founder
This is a longtime favorite source for Cottrell, who especially loves the store's glamorous vintage Venetian glass pendant lamps and sconces and its room-making credenzas and consoles. Fray, a Frenchman, and his wife and brother import a unique mix of French, Italian, and other European antiques, with a focus on Louis XVI, Biedermeier, and French Empire styles. A chic surprise? The period midcentury pieces from France and Italy, too, by the likes of Parisi, Sottsass, and Borsani, and from stylish brands Cassina, de Sede, Minotti, and more. For one project, Cottrell combined a highly graphic 1960s credenza of ivory Murano glass and brass from Fray with a Louis XVI–style white-painted side chair and a punchy Donald Sultan work depicting solid black poppies on an aqua field. "That mixing is what I do," she says. 1009 West 6th Street, No. 102; jeanmarcfray.com; Instagram jeanmarcfray





At Rath, Cottrell loves the highly unusual pairing of rustic Alpine wardrobes, sideboards and tables with early and midcentury modernist furnishings.

RATH *Maggie Orth and Eli Rabb, cofounders*
The immediate impression here is that you've entered a very modernist monastery. This moody shop offers monumental and rustic Alpine wardrobes, sideboards, and tables, all highly contrasted with precisely drawn and detailed architect chairs, lamps, and tables—think Denmark, Italy, France, and beyond. The timespan here is unique: the modernist furnishings are from as early as the 1930s and '40s, while the primitive case goods hail from as far back as the 17th and 18th centuries. The shop offers modern-day abstract art, too. "Maggie and Eli are a young couple with such a sophisticated eye," Cottrell says. "We don't have a place in Dallas that mixes these eras like they do." 900 North Lamar Boulevard; rathtx.com; Instagram rathtx

ALICE'S OTHER AUSTIN

STAY—Cottrell always books **Hotel San José**, the first design-driven getaway from Liz Lambert, the hotelier now synonymous with transforming overlooked buildings into magnetic, authentic destinations. Here Lambert transformed a 1930s motor court into an effortlessly cool retreat of just 40 cozy rooms with concrete floors, slick Eames chairs, and the smoothest sheets and plushest towels imaginable. It's all tucked behind stucco walls that hide lush little courtyards and a serene little pool. The hotel's clever and thoughtful touches in each room redefined hospitality in 2000, when it opened. "Not *one* thing has changed," Cottrell says. "Thank goodness." 1316 South Congress Avenue; bunkhousehotels.com

SHOP—Cottrell calls **ByGeorge** "a baby Barneys" for good reason: This independent fashion and lifestyle boutique, opened in 1979, has a fervent fan base of men and women who come for the clothes of established and emerging designers, plus shoes, watches, eyewear, candles, and tableware. The superstars are here— Alaïa, Dries, Margiela—sharing space with more recent phenoms such as Jacquemus, Khaite, and Diotima. Cottrell loves looking at both the men's and women's clothes and always stares deep into the women's jewelry cases. "The pieces are minimalist and contemporary — *really* special," she says. 524 North Lamar Boulevard, No. 103; bygeorgeaustin.com; Instagram bygeorge

SUP—Cottrell makes **Juniper** a must when she's in town. Named for the fragrant evergreen tree that thrives in the Italian Alps and the Texas Hill Country, Juniper mashes up old-world Northern Italian technique with new-world Texas terroir. The dark, sexy space, inspired by black-box theaters, is as delicious as the food, Cottrell says, with 20-foot timber ceilings, a massive hand-drawn juniper-tree mural, and, dangling overhead, large, bell-shaped pendant lamps made of papier-mache stretched over bronze cages. Cottrell says to ask for server Jack, an elegant and knowledgeable young man, and to order the torchio pasta with shrimp. For dessert, go for the zeppole, like donut holes, dusted with powdered sugar and served with whipped sweet mascarpone and a mixed berry compote. 2400 East Cesar Chavez Street; juniperaustin.com; Instagram juniperaustin. **P**