

ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST

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A New Special Section

SHOP LIKE A DESIGNER

*Where They Go | What They Buy | Where They Stay
Their Secret Sources Revealed*



Shop Like a Designer

Fifteen Designers Reveal Their Secrets for Finding the Best of Everything

Charles Allem

Whether he's in New York or Los Angeles, the Miami-based designer looks primarily for vintage pieces—something he's done for nearly 25 years. "I go to the most reputable dealers," he says. "The pieces are genuine and restored to perfection."

ART

"I love art—it's my first passion," says Allem. "The **Gagosian Gallery** and **Sebastian + Barquet** in New York's West Chelsea district are among the best places to buy art and art pieces. Having a valuable piece of art furniture sets a space apart. Buenos Aires also has exquisite art galleries and extraordinary architecture. It's like a second Paris. **Braga Menendez Arte Contemporaneo** is one of the most cutting-edge galleries."

LOS ANGELES

Allem travels often to Los Angeles for design projects as well as to shop. "The **Pacific Design Center** is a great destination. I like to walk when I'm shopping, and after I go into the showrooms, I walk in the La Cienega neighborhood." He stops in to see what's new at **Modern One** ("exquisite vintage") and **Twentieth**. And he stays at **L'Ermitage** in Beverly Hills. "It's like a little apartment—clean, contemporary and low key," he says. "And my car is always waiting."

Modern One in Los Angeles carries 20th-century decorative arts.

For more inside information from these designers, visit ArchitecturalDigest.com



Art Moderne chandelier at Bernd Goeckler; J. Robert Scott fabrics.

NEW YORK SOURCES

"America has the most fabulous things if you know where to go," says Allem. "Fifteen years ago you went abroad; now the crème goes to New York." When he's in the city, he visits dealers **Bernd Goeckler**, **Karl Kemp** and **John Salibello**, among others.

DESIGN PHILOSOPHY

"I shop specifically for each project," the designer notes. "I like to use different pieces every time. I don't like doing the same look. That would be like putting out the same couture collection in Paris every year! I have an incredible team of young people in my studio. They're brilliant at sourcing on the Internet. It's the way to do business today."



"I am very loyal to companies. I stick with people I know and who know me."

PARIS

"Paris is the most inspiring city in the world," says Allem. "It's always wonderful to go for five days. I go to the flea market, to the fabric fair in January and to the **Biennale**."

IN THE SHOWROOMS

"For accessories and modern pieces, I go to **Holly Hunt**. I like to see everything in daylight, and her showroom in Miami is exquisite. **Nancy Corzine** has great fabrics; she customizes everything. **J. Robert Scott** has a beautiful line of furniture and fabrics. You get inspired going into their shops."

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