

# 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](http://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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