

# Retail Therapy

By HUNTER L. GORINSON

## Corehaus

825 Upshur St. NW  
202-629-3966

[www.corehaus.com](http://www.corehaus.com)



IKEA-phobes rejoice. There's no balsa wood or dainty little dowels to be had at Corehaus. James Kerns, the self-proclaimed "Salvage Coordinator" behind this rough hewn Petworth furniture operation -- and the bulk of its inventory -- has filled his storefront with pieces assembled from found objects the world over. And they use nails to do it. Or fire when necessary.

Whether a coat rack culled from the remnants of an abandoned Fauquier County barn (\$1000) or a spike-studded tractor wheel reborn as hanging sculpture (\$120), nearly every piece of Corehaus' stock is made from what Kerns calls "amalgamated parts."

"It's all had a life before," he said -- which, all things considered, may be a bit of an understatement.

Corehaus: globetrotting one scrap heap at a time.

Kerns has sourced components during travels through many countries -- Azerbaijan, Cuba and Pakistan (to name but a few), even going so far as to barter mountainside for a few one of a kind items like a traditional Tibetan sleeping pad (\$500).

Which isn't to say that Corehaus specializes exclusively in foreign artifacts and dinged up bits of industrial Americana -- some of the store's rarest items can be traced right back to Washington itself. Take for instance Corehaus' current star attraction (and priciest collectible): an authentic, early 20th century trolley scroll (\$5000) listing the old DC streetcar line's stops from Wisconsin Ave. all the way out to Branchville, Maryland.

## Sukio Design Co. @ Dekka

1338 U St. NW (3rd Fl.)

202-986-1370

[www.sukio.com](http://www.sukio.com)

The most recent addition to eclectic U St. cooperative Dekka, this third floor space expands on its downstairs neighbor's "fashion art music" mission statement with a selection of sly home accoutrements for the stylish cynic in one's life.

Dubbed a "home décor showroom" by founder Desiré Greene, Sukio is rife with snarky chic additions for the inner city apartment dweller. Pillows may not seem like the most risqué of purchases, but then again most don't come with orange and fuchsia embroidery proclaiming "DRUGS" in foot high letters (\$65). Even the standard porcelain piggy bank gets a sardonic spin when it's over-glazed with a fine layer of platinum (\$145) -- one piece that certainly won't be getting shattered for milk money.

While any well-read inner child is bound to smile broadly at Sukio's pouch-shaped "Pack



of Dogs" bookshelves/all purpose art forms (\$92 to \$121), customers shouldn't forget the rest of what the greater shop just down stairs has to offer as well. Dekka proper (on the second floor) offers a wide of array of women's wear, guy's tees and accessories -- not to mention the in-house DIY art gallery and fortuneteller in their front window (aka "The Mystic Shop"). Ever finish a spending spree with a tarot reading? Didn't think so.

Gaze deeply into the hypnotic irony of Jonathan Adler's platinum piggy bank at Dekka's Sukio showroom.

**Nana**  
 1528 U St. NW  
 202-267-6955  
[www.nanadc.com](http://www.nanadc.com)



Nana's organic, recycled, eco-conscious, fair trade and snazzy on the whole "skarf."

A seven-year fixture of new, used and "ethically made" women's wear on the U St. corridor, Nana continues to collect a top-shelf cross-section of wares from independent, American design mavens and international fair trade artisans. Their jewelry case alone exemplifies the store's global ethos -- damaged pieces restored and remixed by Boston's Daisy Bandera-Duplantier (\$60) share showcase space with new bracelets and necklaces (\$14 to \$22) made half a world away in India by the all-female craftswomen of Mata Traders.

Still, upholding one's principles and being stylish aren't mutually exclusive matters -- Nana's knot-able, twistable "skarf" (\$69 to \$73), made from shredded pieces of "organic, recycled industry cut-off or ecologically conscious" fabric, being just one example. And while they carry a similarly minded stock of casual and eveningwear, there is one item not up for sale -- a virtually electric, bright blue "Fairy Godmother Dress" that hangs behind the register.

"It's just a fun definition of the shop," said owner Jackie Flanagan, who was given the dress by a thankful customer and has come to see it as something of a good luck charm. Shoppers, however, can look forward to cut of that good fortune at one of Nana's one-day-only "Fashion Frenzy" flash sales that routinely pack the shop from end to end.

**Lululemon Athletica**  
 1461 P St NW  
 202-518-4075  
[www.lululemon.com](http://www.lululemon.com)

Since expanding out of Georgetown and into Logan Circle a year ago, yoga-centric athletic wear dispensary, Lululemon, has been outfitting the mid-city's most flexible deep breathers with everything from water bottles to all-weather jogging wear. But making comfortable, yet utilitarian, workout clothes is anything but a simple science.

Take for instance Lululemon's trademark fabric known simply as "loun." What may seem at first blush to be little more than another stretchy spandex-derived blend is in fact an anti-microbial, highly absorbent metal mesh made with silver (yes, as in the precious metal). As manager Maria Frisch put it, "You may smell, but your shirt won't."

Those "metal vent tech" tees (\$64) are a flagship item at the P St. store, as are their yoga pants (\$98 and up). While their ladies line includes skin-tight styles like the "Wonder Under" and "Groove



Fact: this Lululemon t-shirt contains silver (and we don't mean the color.)

Sneaker," the men's equivalents are decidedly more relaxed fit (and a little more macho with names like "Kung Fu.")

The Logan Circle location offers a complimentary community yoga class every Sunday at 10 am and a post-work Run Club on Mondays at 6:30 pm. ★

# 29¢ Color Sale.\*

- Full-color digital printing and copying
- Binding, laminating and collating
- Flyers, newsletters, brochures, manuals and more
- E-mail us your files or bring them in
- UPS® shipping to over 215 countries and territories

Stop in and ask for details.

\*Maximum price available at participating locations. 8.5x11 paper, single-sided. Copyright ©2007 Mail Boxes Etc., Inc.



**The UPS Store**

Capitol Hill  
 611 Pennsylvania Ave SE  
 202.543.0850  
 M-F: 9a-7p Sat: 9a-5p  
 Online printing at:  
[theupsstore.com/2092.htm](http://theupsstore.com/2092.htm)

[WWW.ANDRENE.COM](http://WWW.ANDRENE.COM)

## ANDRENE'S

CARIBBEAN/SOUL FOOD CARRY OUT  
 308 KENNEDY ST., NW • WASHINGTON, DC  
 202.291.7007  
 OPEN 8 A.M. – 9:30 P.M. (MON. – FRI.)  
 OPEN 11:30 A.M. – 10:30 P.M. (SAT.)



**VISIT AND TAKE AWAY A RENEWED LOVE FOR CARIBBEAN AND SOUTHERN CUISINE!**



### FEATURING

**JERK, CURRIED AND FRIED CHICKEN; OXTAILS, BBQ RIBS; FRIED FISH, GREENS; MACARONI AND CHEESE, CORN BREAD AND DESSERTS**

ONE COUPON PER MONTH—SENIORS ARE NOT SUBJECT TO \$10 MINIMUM ORDER. BRING IN A PAIR OF SOCKS TO SUPPORT HOMELESS IN THE DISTRICT AND RECEIVE 10% OFF YOUR ORDER.