

Where the Willer Things Are

A Kensington shop becomes eclectic



REBECCA WILLER talks about her eponymous Kensington tableware and design shop as if she were a Savile Row tailor, using terms like “bespoke design” and “custom orders” to describe the shop’s services. Indeed, the suites of place settings displayed in cabinets on one side of the showroom are as beautifully styled as elegant dress shirts and ties. Grouped in varied assemblages, it is not unusual to see such items as an antique chalice sitting next to a piece of contemporary Italian art glass, or a mid-century modern wood sculpture flanked by a pile of eggshell-

thin porcelain bowls from the Song Dynasty and an Alessi vase. “I love the challenge of finding new things,” says Willer. “Call it a combination of tramping the back roads, scouring trade shows and tracking down obscure leads.” With an eagle eye, she has selected some of the most sophisticated porcelain, silver, crystal and linens on the market, and tightly edited the collections so that the result is a harmonious color palette of earth tones: rich chocolate brown, soft greens, terra-cotta, aubergine, yellow and gray—very appealing to the modern sensualist.

Clients can order tableware services produced to their specifications. Art pieces in wood, metal and mixed media complement the tablesettings, and furniture is available, too. “One thing I have found very gratifying is that designers come in, look around, get excited and start ordering things for themselves,” Willer says. “Fortunately, they eventually remember their clients and get back to work.”

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Clockwise from left: Rebecca Willer’s showroom includes an Eames Time Life stool, a Sabattini vase and an Arts and Crafts-era copper chalice; stoneware dishes are paired with an antique copper cup; a modern aluminum and lacquer bowl.



BILL BATTEN