

STYLE



where she takes client meetings and consultations. Originally from Chicago, Meier studied fashion design at Parsons School of Design in New York before moving to San Diego and transitioning to interiors, which offered more opportunity for client interaction. She launched her firm in 2009 and opened her first office in the village a mere block from her current digs.

The second entryway, a set of French doors facing Avenida de Acacias, leads to the shop. “I’ve always wanted a retail store,” she says. “The space was so perfect that I couldn’t pass it up when it became available.”

Keeping in line with her aesthetic, the open-floor layout calms with its simplicity. In a roundabout way, that’s thanks to her kids. “They’re my biggest influence,” she says of her five- and seven-year-old. “They’re noisy, have so much stuff. Here, I want everything to have its place. I want peaceful. I don’t do a ton of wild colors or geometric prints, just things that are calming.”

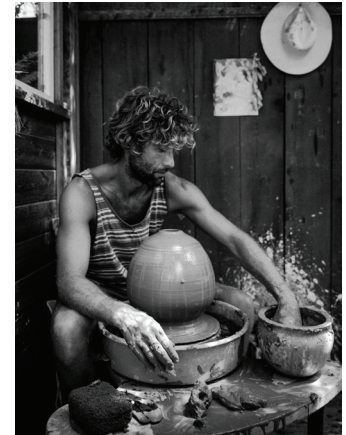
There are larger antiques—consider a Louis XV chest of drawers and an English regency recamier—that Meier has hand-plucked during her travels.

“I’m constantly scouring,” she says, noting she’s visited flea markets everywhere from Paris to Nashville. This spring she’s planning a trip to Prague, Stockholm, and Copenhagen to soak up Nordic styles and, fingers crossed, purchase a few pieces for the shop. “All good ideas come from seeing new things and meeting new people. I draw inspiration from my travels.”

Then there are tokens created wholly for the store by makers from around the country. Take table lamps designed by Carol Leskancic in New York, coffee table trays by Erik Gustafson in Chicago, and, from La Jolla, ceramic pieces by Joe Skoby (see sidebar), and artwork by James Kendall Higgins. “It was a top priority to carry one-of-a-kind pieces, exclusive collaborations with artisans, and rare international lines that people haven’t seen before... and can’t get anywhere else.”

—SARAH PFLEDDERER

FROM TOP: Inside the retail space, reminiscent of a foyer; a Grecian-inspired ceramic collection by Joe Skoby; Meier in her design studio; the entrance to Amy Meier on Avenida de Acacias.



BEHIND THE CRAFT

SPINNING HIS WHEELS

Meet the El Pescador manager turned ceramicist cranking out masterpieces

Seeing his ceramic pieces next to antiques sourced from Paris and adored by big-name designers like Peter Dunham is a stark contrast to **Joe Skoby’s** humble retail beginnings. Technically, the ceramicist was discovered, of all places, in a fish market—El Pescador in La Jolla. “The owner allowed me to put my pieces up on the counter to sell,” says Skoby, who 15 years later is now a manager of the market/restaurant—by night. By day, he’s at a pottery wheel in his Bird Rock backyard, spinning clay into vase-like sculptures or, as he sees them, “nonfunctional ornamental pieces of sculptural art. Whatever people do with them is cool.”

Amy Meier is the first San Diego retailer to carry his pieces, including a Grecian-inspired collection custom-made for the shop. But most of Skoby’s sales are made online. An individual piece can take up to a month from start to finish, and they’re priced from \$350 to \$700. Most are influenced by his favorite hobby: surfing. “I’m always looking at what the winds and tides and swells are doing,” he says. That translates into details like grooving, crazing, and blistering reminiscent of a stone weathered by the ocean, or glazing suggesting tides pulling back from the shore. —SP

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