

The Art of Design

Transform your residence back in time with retro décor

If you want to have some fun while decorating one or more rooms in your home, why not go “back in time” and do something outrageous? Why not go retro?

Retro décor can take you back to a simpler time, when corner drug stores, soda fountains and drive-in movies were common. Maybe you're old enough to remember those days and, perhaps, want to bring a few memories back to life. Or maybe you're just a nostalgia buff and want to have some fun.

Either way, why not convert your breakfast nook, game room or kitchen (or garage, for that matter) into a replica of your favorite diner, complete with the soda fountain you visited when you were a kid?

I found all of the above and more online at www.barsandbooths.com

This Web site is the online presence for a 4,000-square-foot retail store in Charles Town, W.Va., that specializes in custom retro furniture and vintage machines. Bars & Booths' line of furniture is new, but it is custom-made by the people who made it in the 1940s and '50s.

A visit to the company's Web site, www.barsandbooths.com, reveals a plethora of choices, all designed to bring memories to life and add some nostalgic charm to your décor. The company offers several complete booth sets — each includes a coordinating table and a base — as well as individual pieces of furniture, including tables, chairs, bars and bar stools that are ideal for any kitchen or dining area.

With its contrasting piping and chrome base, the Corner Drug Store Booth Set will take you back in time and turn your retro room into your old high school hangout. You can choose the colors of the seat and the piping from a wide assortment.

While Bars & Booths offers a number of complete sets, company President Barbara

Smith said the finished product is often based on design input from customers. The company also will send installers to your home to make sure everything fits properly.

Among the examples Smith cited was a custom garage conversion for a customer in South Carolina: “We were asked to build diner furniture for a ‘Retro Garage,’ based on drawings submitted by the customer. He did a great job assembling and displaying an incredible retro collection of machines, games, cars, posters — just about anything you would want in a retro room.”

With the help of the Bars & Booths design team, a homeowner in Wellington created a special room for her grandchildren. “Ninny's Diner” includes a custom-made soda-fountain set “designed entirely by our customer, with a little help from our design team,” Smith said.

Smith said you can “turn any space into a true retro room” with an original black-light poster from the 1960s or '70s. “Add a retro-style radio or turntable, a few Coca Cola items (e.g., straw holders, bottle openers) and a few retro reproduction signs, and you'll have the complete package.”

Other options include new refrigerators built using today's technology yet featuring yesteryear's retro look, Art Deco lighting, retro drive-in speakers, antique telephones and original vintage pay phones.

If you want to have some fun decorating and create a real conversation piece, why not take a trip down memory lane? Why not go retro?

To see more retro furniture from Bars & Booths, tune in to HGTV at 1 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 18, for *Spice Up My Kitchen*.

Bars & Booths is at 200 W. Washington St., Charles Town, W.Va. The phone number is (800) 507-7632.

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Bill Underwood



The Corner Drug Store Booth Set (above) will turn your retro room into your old high school hangout. The set includes a 24-by-42-inch table, fabricated in standard laminate with metal banding, on a chrome column base.



The classic Bomber Bar (above) from Bars & Booths was customized to fit this room's dimensions. To complete the room, a custom wall hanging was designed to conceal ductwork.

The design for this ‘Retro Garage’ (below) was based on drawings submitted by the homeowner. Included in his collection: machines, games, cars, posters and other bits of nostalgia.



Welcome to ‘Ninny's Diner!’ With the help of the Bars & Booths design team, a homeowner in Wellington created a special room for her grandchildren, complete with a working soda fountain.



REAL ESTATE NEWS & NOTES



From left: event co-chair Patti Max; Mike Cline, former professional football player; event co-chair Debora Hartman; Bob Beamon, Olympic long jump winner; Sharon Alexander, Unicorn Children's Foundation executive director; and Eric Deckinger, vice president of Opus South.

Meridian at One North Ocean hosts Unicorn Children's Foundation 'Friendraiser'

An indoor tailgate party was held at Meridian at One North Ocean when Opus South Development hosted the Unicorn Children's Foundation (UCF) “Friendraiser.” More than 130 guests enjoyed the setting and hospitality while learning about the organization.

The event, co-chaired by Debora Hartman and Patti Max, raised awareness and asked people to become involved in the organization.

“We are grateful to Meridian and Opus South for helping us bring recognition to the important work of the Unicorn Children's Foundation,” said Sharon Alexander, UCF's executive director and director of programs.

Bob Beamon, a winner in the 1968 Olympic Games with a record-breaking long jump; and Mike Cline, former professional football player, were among the guests.

Stadium-style fare was served poolside and in the social room and bar. Guests also toured the model residence at Meridian at One North Ocean.

Lynn Sims, Meridian sales director, said, “We were delighted to share Meridian with this group and to put the spotlight on such a worthy cause.”

Founded in 1994, UCF is an international nonprofit organization dedicated to education and research on behalf of children with learning and communication disorders, such as attention deficit disorder, dyslexia and autism.

For information about UCF, visit the Web site at www.unicornchildrensfoundation.org, or call (561) 620-9377.

For information about Meridian at One North Ocean, visit www.meridiancondo.com, or call (561) 368-8000.

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