

Toronto's top furniture design district shops



By Andy Levy-Ajzenkopf

For the past few years Torontonians have noticed a steady outgrowth of new, upscale furniture and design shops in what is often referred to as "Old Town". The district comes by its name honestly, as it was mapped out centuries ago by Col. John Graves Simcoe, first Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada, in 1793.

Located just east of the downtown core, the area runs a seven-block stretch along King Street East bordered by Jarvis Street on the west side, Parliament at the eastern edge, Adelaide to the North and Front Street on the south.

Thankfully, "Old Town" has retained much of its heritage architecture and

old-world charm. It's no wonder that an exciting number of design entrepreneurs have set up shop in this locale alongside the newly-chic, local cafes and restaurants. Walking along in this old neighbourhood, gazing at the buildings constructed in an earlier age, pedestrians can't help but notice how beautifully integrated the design shops have become. To preserve and promote the area, enthusiastic merchants have banded together to create what's now known as the "King Street East Style" district. As furniture shoppers, we should rejoice!

If you're searching for fine imports from around the globe, Canadiana



or one-of-a-kind, custom-made items, here you'll find a most eclectic group of shops we recommend you visit when you're next in the nouveau chic furniture style district.

Nitty Gritty Reproductions 170 King St. E.

Since 1976, this unique boutique has been a resource for designers, corporations and consumers with an eye for quality. Specialized cabinet makers can create new products and reproduce pieces in the 18th and 19th century styles.

Visiting their store is like walking back in time. There's a warmth, character and romance in the air as we learn about the time and attention Nitty Gritty artisans and craftspeople lovingly apply to all their work. 90% of work is custom ordered. It is a "museum character setting" that exemplifies the company's old-world charm.

Though Nitty Gritty designs and produces nearly 400 standard pieces of furniture, expect every piece to have its own features. They also pride themselves on using old-style Milk-Paint finishes, a process they have used to great effect in helping invisibly mend museum pieces.

Nitty Gritty has also built a reputation across the country for their stunning character finishes. Look at retail outlets like Chapters and Movenpick who've discovered their work and you'll see their work again.

www.nittygritty.ca

