

In Dallas, shopping isn't just a leisurely pastime. Mary Wolfsberger, a Texan skilled in the art of serious browsing, takes us to some of the city's best shops

Dallas in a Day

Mention Dallas, and one word springs to mind: shopping. A world-class retailing center since its founding as a trading post by John Neely Bryan in the 1840s, Dallas' fortune and fame were built on commercial enterprise.

The city's exhaustive array of antiques stores, designer clothing boutiques, and gift stores can overwhelm the neophyte; it often takes a trained eye to search out the best. Mary Wolfsberger has that eye. This Dallas resident looks for quality and style at every price point like a heat-seeking missile. But the thrill of shopping is not just about spending money, she insists. "It's about developing a personal style and

implementing it," says the woman who at one time enjoyed a career selling high-fashion clothing, as well as a stint crafting elegant humidors from old English boxes.

Of course, developing a personal style can take years, and implementing it can take a lifetime. But when Wolfsberger is faced with the task of visiting some of her favorite shops in a day, she shows the stamina of a true enthusiast.

When looking for antiques,



At Jan Showers, above, the offerings range from a 1950s aquamarine satin-covered French chair to a set of Louis XVI-style bronze and mirrored nesting tables. The entry to Translations, top right, displays its selection of modern accessories. Joseph Minton Antiques, bottom right, offers a variety of small 19th-century cabinets and side tables. East & Orient Company, far right, has unusual items such as the Mogul Indian fountain and white marble chair.



by David Feld

Photographs by
Deborah Whitlaw

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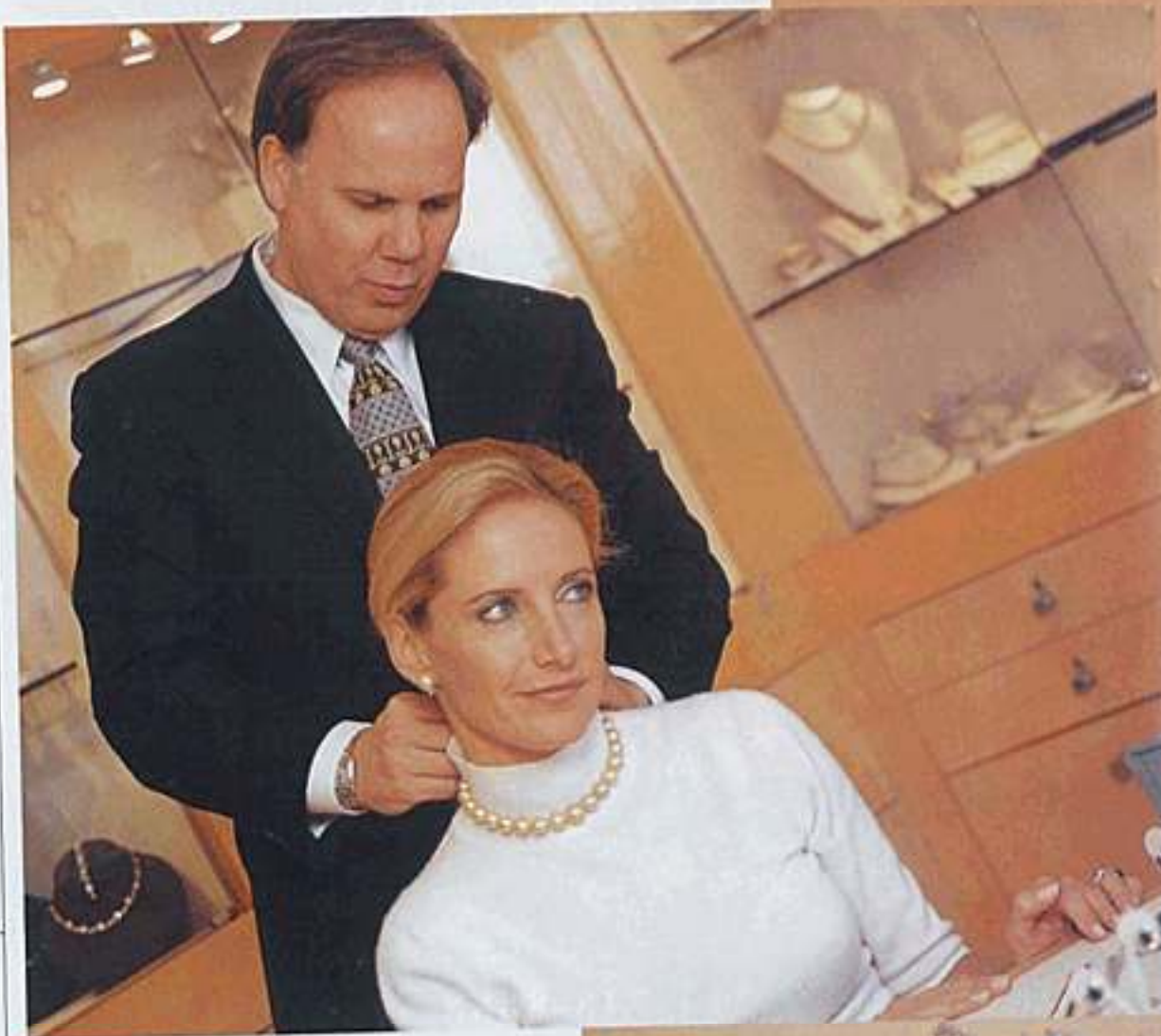


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William Noble assists Wolfsberger with a South Sea golden pearl necklace, top. As one of the city's premier jewelry stores, the shop offers estate jewelry as well as contemporary pieces.



that side makes the shop unique in town." Showers, also a decorator, specializes in French furniture from the 1930s and '40s and stocks a smattering of 18th- and 19th-century French antiques. Directoire-style dining tables and chairs and pieces by French Deco master André Arbus are the result of many trips to Paris.

At Joseph Minton Antiques, the interior designer concentrates on just about anything that strikes his fancy. From important 18th-century French country furnishings to his own line of reproductions, Minton's shop has a diverse selection. "I particularly love his variety of Italian ceramics," says Wolfsberger, who couldn't resist a pair of painted urns for her kitchen.

Translations is Dallas' destination for both modern and artisan-designed gifts and collectibles. The airy shop, owned by Mary Bloom

