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# BALANCING ACT

AUSTIN DESIGNER AND  
SHOWROOM OWNER KIMBERLY  
RENNER CREATES AN ALL-  
ENCOMPASSING DESTINATION  
FOR DÉCOR AFICIONADOS FILLED  
WITH INSPIRING VIGNETTES.

WRITTEN BY TARYN BICKLEY / PHOTOGRAPHY BY WYNN MYERS







Austin showroom owner and designer Kimberly Renner, shown above, fashions unique displays in her shop using such pieces as a Goyard trunk, above left, a chandelier fabricated in-house mixed with 19<sup>th</sup>-century bergères reupholstered in a modern stripe, above, and a Nigerian cast-bronze crocodile, left. The vignette opposite includes an ikat-patterned Turkish rug paired with an Art Deco buffet.

**K**imberly Renner truly embraces her role as consummate juggler. Whether it be consulting on a construction project for a home in Austin, purchasing items for her newly opened retail space, or facilitating custom lighting and furniture orders, Renner is adept at maneuvering every piece of her life into one congruent puzzle. With her most recent venture, The Renner Project, the designer has compiled a one-stop shop within her 5,000-square-foot outpost, which represents 20<sup>th</sup>-century designs alongside vintage pieces, custom items and quality antiques from around the world. “My vision for The Renner Project is to present customers with a constantly evolving source of inspiration,” she says. “I love putting things together in ways that people normally wouldn’t imagine.”

The main level of the building houses a retail section complete with changing rooms each set up to reflect a home’s true proportions. “We want the vignettes to look and feel like your own house,” she explains. In addition to the main display rooms, the building also features a workshop—where the company fabricates custom pieces in-house—as well as an extensive warehouse. “Antiques almost always need some kind of restoration,” Renner says. “We pride ourselves on quality control by executing these improvements in-house. It’s also a creative space where we can design and build custom pieces.”







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Renner composed this enchanting  
roomscape with a vintage English  
chesterfield, midcentury chairs cloaked  
in a houndstooth fabric, and 1970s Italian  
black-and-chrome chairs, which all rest on  
a rich Oushak rug. Circa 1910 Japanese  
lockers are from a municipal building.

Above the main level is an urban-style loft—where Renner and her family reside—which reflects the designer's chic style. "Working in this capacity has enabled me to move fluidly between roles," she explains. "There's only a set of stairs in between each of my worlds and that's pretty cool."

Renner considers the entire space an active design lab. Art flies off the shelves the minute it's curated, collectible case goods mingle with small tabletop items, and iconic furniture designs—specifically the designer's favorite vintage leather seating—sit alongside refurbished lighting, rugs and accessories. With a natural propensity for scale and proportion, and a heady dose of intuition, Renner is able to compose and create vignettes with a signature flair that marries the area's artsy bohemian aesthetic with Southern hospitality. "I'm committed to a strong stylistic mix of objects," she says. "My goal is to put a fresh take on it all." ■