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Sophia Salaman chooses the best merchandise and events from the USA



Above left: antiques at Richard Shapiro. Above right: fabrics from Christine van der Hurd. Bottom: sterling-silver pitcher from Georg Jensen

■ As a lifelong devotee of the arts, Richard Shapiro has, over the years, played several intertwining roles in different disciplines. With a passion for rare early Italian furniture, his Antiques & Works of Art Gallery on Melrose Avenue in LA evokes the warmth of an elegant Italian villa, while housing a varied mix of antiques, each chosen for its novelty and artistic merit. Richard Shapiro Antiques, 8905 Melrose Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90069 (001 310 275 6700; rshapiroantiques.com).

■ Using innovation and a great sense of colour, Christine van der Hurd has unveiled an eye-catching and unique collection for 2009. A combination of geometric shapes and various new dyes form the latest range of hand-knotted carpets and printed fabrics. A broader, more colourful range such as magenta, chartreuse and aqua create a modern edge and a striking palette, while flower motifs and graphic block design create different variations. Christine van der Hurd, Suite 11S, 260 5th Ave, New York, NY 10001 (001 212 213 6541; vanderhurdstudio.com).

■ The New York Design Center is now online. With over 40 participating showrooms and over 10,000 searchable items, the NYDC, the oldest and most progressive design centre in the USA, is leading the movement for online design resources. The user-friendly site features beautifully presented inventories of, and information on, furniture, lighting, carpets, accessories, antiques and kitchens. New York Design Center, 200 Lexington Ave, New York, NY 10016 (001 212 679 9500; nydc.com).

■ In 2008 Georg Jensen celebrates the 90th anniversary of one of its most celebrated designers, Henning Koppel. Starting out designing jewellery for Jensen, Koppel then went on to design sterling silverware, each piece of which is a sculpture, such as a pitcher in the form of a pregnant duck, the famous 'New York' cutlery set and a magnificent covered dish. The appeal and integrity of his designs remain timeless and dynamic. Georg Jensen, 685 Madison Ave, New York, NY 10065 (001 212 759 6457; georgjensen.com). ▷

