



## BUSINESS

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### Small Retail: Revival in Georgetown

NOEL LYN SMITH

Situated in a corner inside Revival Home & Garden is a vintage leather porter's chair.

With its high back and hooded body, the porter's chair kept doormen warm while waiting by the front doors of estates and hotels for guests to arrive, explained Revival owner Leah Steen.

The chair, acquired from a Connecticut estate, is one of the many furniture and decorative pieces that make shopping at Revival an eye-catching experience.

"I like having interesting pieces like that in a home mixed with new pieces," the 34-year-old said. "It makes for an interesting environment."

Steen opened Revival in March in Georgetown, where she lives with her husband and their two daughters.

Each of the items for sale offers a mixture of curvy lines, bright colors or unique flair.

"Our climate is so gray a lot of the time," Steen said. "It's nice to create an environment in your home that makes you feel energized."

A splash of color can be added to a room with a red and white gilded British settee from MetroSofa.

MetroSofa uses environmentally friendly fabrics and products to refurbish recycled, reclaimed or antique sofa and chair frames.

Another interesting piece is a vintage Asian stereo console. Its exterior is black with circular handles and a golden yellow interior.

Smaller home items, such as an acrylic Karim Rashid stool or Bon Chic soy candles by Seda France, can be found throughout the store.

One shelf is devoted to biodegradable household cleansers and laundry detergent by Caldrea.

Near the entrance are Claus Porto soaps from Portugal that are individually wrapped in funky styled paper, a presentation Steen finds appealing.

"I think their packaging is so lovely," she said. "You can get soap anywhere, but I think it's all part of the experience -- how it's packaged. ... I think if you're going to buy something, why not make it cool."

The back of the store is shared by a selection of children's items and gardening supplies.

For the children, there are booties made from recycled plastic bottles by Pedrosprout, Kitty Beast T-shirts, books and learning games.

A vintage British school desk comes complete with an assortment of scribbles, including declarations of love from students.

The garden section boasts J Schatz bird feeders, Hable Construction garden gloves, lanterns, handmade concrete plant pots, watering cans, pruners and an assortment of planters.

Steen searches antique stores, flea markets, yard sales and eBay to keep the store's selection fresh.

"I want to keep getting better and better at finding unique things that aren't being sold everywhere else," she said.

Kathy Nyland, chairwoman of the Georgetown Merchants' Association, first visited Revival when it opened and is delighted that another Georgetown resident has opened a store in the district.

"It offers something that is unique and it brings people to the neighborhood who otherwise would not visit," Nyland said.

For John Bennett, landlord of 15 Georgetown buildings, including the one that houses Revival, the store's launch contributes to the growing business activity along Airport Way South.

"Leah's store is part of that," Bennett said.

Prior to opening Revival, Steen worked as an interior designer at a commercial design firm in Ballard.

Although she has a lifelong interest in interior design, she earned a journalism degree from the University of Georgia.

"I always loved design. ... Even when I was little, I liked reading design magazines," she said.

After working in Tennessee, Steen moved to Seattle in 1997 and settled into the editorial department at Amazon.com.

While working there, she decided to study interior design at Bellevue Community College.

Steen said she likes that Revival offers a different side to Georgetown.

"It's definitely not a Georgetown-type store. ... Georgetown is a diverse community and made up of a lot of different kinds of people, of which I am one," she said. "This is what I love, and I think that makes it a Georgetown business."

## **IF YOU GO**

### **Revival Home & Garden**

5515 Airport Way S., Seattle

206-763-3886

[revivalhomeandgarden.com](http://revivalhomeandgarden.com)

**Hours:** Wednesday-Friday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sunday, noon-5 p.m.

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