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ROOM IN HER
BIG BED

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RENEGADE DOCTOR
TELLS ALL
AN EXCERPT

Atlanta

My HOMETOWN

19

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Atlanta's Got 1st Dibs

Shopping local, via the web

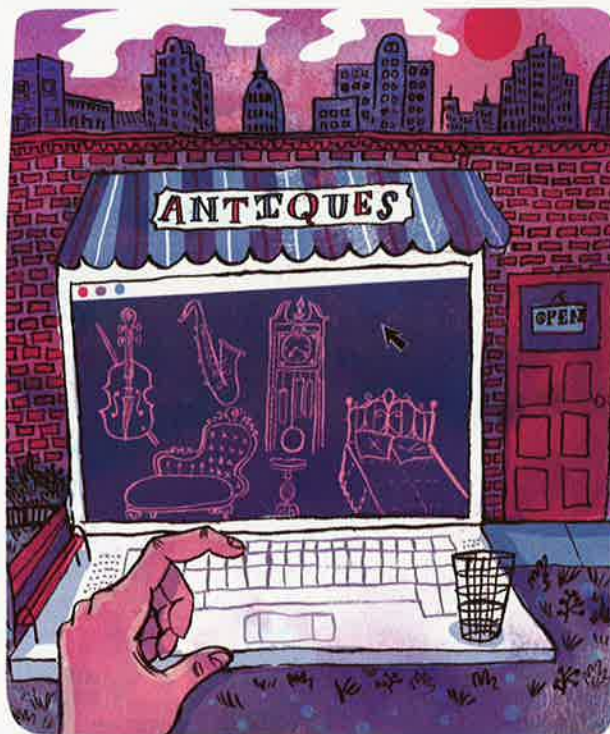
by BETSY RILEY

THIS SATURDAY, want to go shopping with Kathryn Ireland, star of Bravo's *Million Dollar Decorators*, or wander through a virtual Paris flea market with Atlanta's own Suzanne Kasler? How about nabbing that pair of vintage wooden folding chairs covered in calfskin? Nice pick, Suzanne.

Welcome to 1stdibs.com, an online marketplace that attracts more than 2 million visits per month. The ten-year-old website is so addicting, the *New York Times* recently coined the syndrome "1stdibs envy." Every week it publishes new editorial features designed to tempt shelter-book devotees—such as the aforesaid "Saturday Shopping" pages; profiles of designers, artists, and shops; and reviews of exhibitions and books. However, the real draw is rarefied merchandise for sale—originally decorative objects, antiques, and classic furnishings, now augmented by jewelry, vintage haute couture, and even real estate. To discover many of the prices, you must email the dealer.

Vetted dealers are arranged by city to facilitate local shopping. Michael Bruno, 1stdibs founder, believes Atlanta is one of the nation's top antique centers and added our town back in 2005. "So many Atlanta dealers are in centralized locations that you can go to a couple of neighborhoods and see a lot," says Bruno. Indeed, with concentrated antique districts such as Peachtree Hills, Bennett Street, Chamblee Row, and Miami Circle, Atlanta shoppers have been spoiled by easy pickings.

Nonetheless, online commerce has its benefits. For example, 1stdibs has made negotiating over price less intimidating, says Shane Robuck, whose Peachtree Hills shop specializes in Euro-



pean antiques. "You can just send an email. It's hard to make a [low offer] if you have to walk in and look someone in the eye."

eBay, it's not. Recent posts included a rare cigar-store Indian for \$200,000 and a giltwood-framed mirror for \$45,000. But dealers say the website actually keeps prices competitive. Lee Kleinhelter, a 1stdibs seller who owns Pieces, a vintage furniture boutique in Buckhead, says, "In the design world, everything has become so mass-produced and inexpensive that people have lost sight of the art of some pieces. If you understand these items, you appreciate the prices." ■

HOT SHOP

Bobby Berk

Ikea? Check. Room & Board? Check. CB2? Check. And now Atlanta scores another of *Time Out New York's* Top Ten Big Home Stores: Bobby Berk Home. Through storefront windows, pops of the retailer's trademark orange entice shoppers inside the two-story, industrial space. The Midtown spot marks the precocious thirty-year-old designer's third and largest location, complete with a section for babies and kids.

Berk chose Atlanta for its love of sophisticated design and vibrant

urban environment. The Texas native, who started his career at Restoration Hardware and Portico Bed & Bath, is known for midcentury style and playful use of acrylic, stainless steel, and wood. One of his current favorites is a gray sectional sofa with tufted seating by Gus Modern. "It doesn't feel like your parents' sofa, but it's a throwback to the fifties and sixties," says Berk. (Starting at \$1,999, it is also among the most affordable pieces at this moderately priced chain.) A signature piece, featured on both HGTV and Bravo, is Linvin's colorful Queen of Love chair (\$895), an exaggerated take on Louis XV style. 805 Peachtree Street, 404-874-3812, bobbyberkhome.com —SUZANNE OLIVER



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF BOBBY BERK HOME

ONLINE Read about Jonathan Adler, Bee, and other boutiques at atlantamagazine.com > life & style > home & garden