



Merchants of Venice

"The locals were dying for a bookstore in line with the vibe of Venice Beach," says Philip Fracassi, who co-owns Equator Books with Michael Deyermond. The minimalist space (above left and left), designed by architect Rania Alomar, is stocked with rare and out-of-print editions (above) focusing on art, architecture, photography, design, literature and poetry. Doubling as an art gallery, Equator has exhibited work by Joe Goode and Peter Lodato as well as up-and-coming L.A. artists. EQUATOR BOOKS, 1103 Abbot Kinney Blvd., Venice, CA 90291, 310.399.5544, www.equatorbooks.com

Taos Modern

"I look at my body of work, and I think it's entirely New Mexican," says Taos-based artist and furniture designer Chadwick Dean Manley, who, after spending time in Portland and New York, returned to his New Mexico roots. The place "never left my bones," he says. His streamlined pieces, including the steel-and-mahogany Box Elm console (below), are sold through Boyd and Dreith in Denver and Santa Fe's Tadu Downtown. "My designs speak more to the sculptural than the purely functional." CHADWICK DEAN MANLEY, www.chadmanleydesign.com



London Calling

At London designer Cath Kidston's recently opened West Coast shop in Brentwood's Country Mart, everything from drinking glasses to wallpaper is offered in her signature florals and bright colors. "It's fresh and pretty," she says. "And there's absolutely nothing formal about it." CATH KIDSTON, 225 26th St., Los Angeles, CA 90402, 310.451.6727, www.cathkidston.com



Equator Books: Corey Richter; Chadwick Dean Manley: courtesy of Chadwick Dean Manley; Cath Kidston: Gregora Cannon