

CityBook

Houston

April 2017

*"April hath put a spirit
of youth in everything."*

—WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

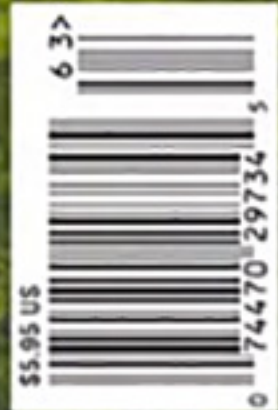
**TRAVEL
REPORT**

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Sporty Spring Style

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"Pieces such as these vintage tessellated marble tusks by Maitland-Smithstone — no, they are not ivory — make a unique statement. We get creative when sourcing vintage pieces. I love The Guild Shop for estate-sale pieces or things that were loved but are no longer being used. Martha Stewart was spotted there shopping during Super Bowl, so you know it's good."

"The entire space was built around this 1960s Venini crystal chandelier that we found at Native Citizen. Its two-tone glamour demanded a dramatic backdrop, so this space is filled with graphic, wild elements."

"This Dakota glass-top dining table in polished nickel, by Julian Chichester, is a great example of where to spend. It's where the eyes pop and it dresses up the entire room."

"I bought these H-Back chairs on auction at Lewis and Maese in the Washington Corridor. They have occasional auctions around mid-century design, which are great opportunities to find some funky pieces. Know where to go and know your sources; it can save you a lot of money."

Very Vintage and Oh-So-Glam

YOUNG INTERIOR DESIGNER Ben Johnston launched his eponymous biz last year after more than a decade of collaborating with other prominent Houston designers. His eclectic mix of antiques and vintage items, juxtaposed with the new and now, make his interiors — like this dining room — more of an experience than just a pretty thing to look at. "You

should always invest in comfortable seating for your dining room, but avoid purchasing entire sets," says Johnston. "The variety allows guests to pick their favorite spot around the table and creates a more dynamic interior." Here, he shares other tips for curating a great space — and reveals a few of his (*shhh!*) secret sources around town. —MEREDITH XAVIER