

Secret Sources: Melinda Mandell's Silicon Valley

Spots

Melinda Mandell's affinity for design began long before she ever had a shopping budget — with the remodel of her family home as a kid. The designer credits the experience of watching the design process in action with igniting her passion for the field, and being instrumental in forming her understanding of how the smallest design detail can make a huge difference in the overall success of a room. After honing her skills with a Bachelor of Arts in Interior Design from Seattle Pacific University and a degree from the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising in Los Angeles, Melinda settled in the San Francisco Bay Area's Silicon Valley and founded her namesake firm **Melinda Mandell Design** in 2011.

By *California Home And Design* on 01/12/15 at 8:36 am



All photos by: Christopher Stark



One of the first projects Melinda tackled was her own home office. The space had to be multi-functional — she uses it to meet with clients, draft proposals, and to do design work — and fit with the aesthetic of the rest of the house. As a vintage lover and treasure-hunting aficionado, Melinda tapped into her favorite local resources to make her own office a perfect representation of her firm's design savvy. Big thanks to Melinda for sharing her favorite Silicon Valley-area resources (plus one!) for budding designers and seasoned pros, inspired by the designer's own office remodel.

Apartment 46, San Mateo

One of my favorite places to go for inspiration, as the shop has the most marvelous atmosphere. They have fantastic vintage accessories and art. I especially love their unique vintage glass and ceramics. My personal home, as well as my clients' homes, are full of pieces from this special shop. Objects from Apartment 46 have mystery, history, and patina that are the perfect finishing touch for my interiors.

Vintage Bath, Los Altos

This store is a designer heaven, and they are my first stop for bathroom, kitchen, and hardware needs. The owners' extensive knowledge of plumbing is invaluable to me and my clients. Vintage Bath's plumbing, lighting, accessories, and towels have been beautifully curated by the owners. They have my favorite lighting brand, Visual Comfort, and the most beautiful bath accessories in wood, capiz shell, and faux shagreen.

Art & Frames Unlimited, Mountain View

This shop has the best selection of custom and pre-made frames. Diane works with me to get the perfect color mats, and just the right shade of warm silver for my frames. Their customer service is unbeatable.

Menacho Refinishing, Mountain View

Right next door to Art & Frames, is Menacho Refinishing. They refinished my vintage 1960s Baker Desk, and perfectly matched a stain sample I provided. My desk now has a beautiful dark luster and is good for another 50 years!

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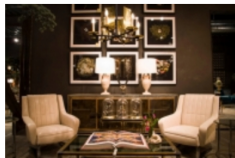
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This shop has the best collection of upholstered pieces with unique shapes, accessories, and rare vintage finds. I was thrilled to find vintage freestanding towel racks when I was there in October and gorgeous brass chairs upholstered in antique Oushak rugs. They are my go-to source for in-stock upholstery, and fantastic accessories.

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