

# Customers get an 'in' at design center



**PJ  
BREMIER**

Fine Living

**D**ESIGNERS HAVE an "all-access pass" to the beautiful furniture, fabrics and accessories at their mecca, the San Francisco Design Center, which is open to the public for browsing but not always buying.

That's where Access Décor, a buying service started by Carolyn Einstein about two months ago, can help. She's spent the past three years working with her mother, interior designer Diane Einstein, at their SFDC office.

Says Carolyn: "The time spent working with my mother was extremely beneficial. Not only did I learn all aspects of the interior design business, I became familiar with the characteristics of each showroom in the design center, and the furniture or fabric lines they represent. I also developed strong

relationships with the showroom employees and vendors. Starting my own buying service seemed like a natural fit."

Access Décor was designed to assist people in purchasing custom high-end furniture and furnishings at the design center at a saving. If a client is interested in a specific item or items, Access Décor will obtain swatches, pictures, pricing, lead time and any other information needed to make a purchase decision.

"As there are over 100 showrooms in the Design Center," Carolyn points out, "with multiple manufacturers in each showroom, shopping can be overwhelming. We've removed some of the confusion in trying to navigate around the design center, making it much more accessible."

"Our services are customized to the customer's needs, style and budget. We make sure that each client is taken to the appropriate showrooms, which ensures a pleasant and productive visit."

Once choices have been made, Access Décor handles all ordering, billing and shipping, and

## GREEN TIP

Need to replace a power-steering pump, engine or transmission for your car? Think about buying a recycled one. Not only will you save money — a new power-steering pump can cost \$160, a rebuilt one not quite \$100, but a recycled one can be as low as \$35 — and you'll save the environment, too.

Based on an annual average of 7 million vehicles processed in the United States alone, the automotive recycling industry recycles more than 2 million tons of cast iron, 7 million tons of steel and a half-million tons of aluminum each year. It also saves the energy needed to turn raw materials into finished parts.

Look in the yellow pages under "auto recyclers," "auto/truck parts-used" or "auto wreckers" for recycled parts.

*Courtesy of Automotive Recyclers Association; 703-385-1001*

coordinates any workroom services required. For all purchases, Access Décor will split the difference between the wholesale (designer cost) and retail prices. A one-time fee of \$150 includes an initial consultation and up to two hours of escorted showroom shopping. Additional shopping hours are charged at \$55.

Access Décor is located in the San Francisco Design Center. For more information, call 565-7115 or visit [www.accessdecor.com](http://www.accessdecor.com).

## New book club

Bonnie MacLaird, owner of Habitat Books in Sausalito, a shop devoted to home and garden publications, is starting a nonfiction book club to satisfy her enthusiastic customers. The tentative start date is Tuesday, Aug., 26 at 6:30 p.m. at her shop across from the Valhalla.

The books she thinks might be interesting to start with include "Three Junes," "A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius," "The Dive from Clausen's Pier," "Savannah Blues" and "The Secret Life of Bees." All are paperback and cost about \$14 each. MacLaird will give a 20 percent discount on books purchased at Habitat Books.

For more information, call 331-3344.

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