

MIDCENTURY MOTIF

A well-designed window pulls us into our first store, Duane, 176 Duane Street. A pair of orange leather stools by Knoll, \$3,800, stops the designer in her tracks. "These would look good with anything—especially gray," she says. "It's my new chocolate brown." She envisions them in a dressing room, making a statement under a wooden vanity.

As we head into the showroom, we see that Duane's reputation as a go-to spot for midcentury designs by the likes of Karl Springer and T.H. Robsjohn-Gibbins is well-founded. A circa-1960 canary-yellow lamp with a geometric base, \$2,200, is one of Nisbet's favorites. She's drawn to the boisterous piece's unusual height—nearly 41 inches—and glossy lacquer finish. "I've been trying to sell this to one of my clients for their foyer," she explains. "It would create contradiction in their traditional interior."

Moving toward the back, she eyes another fixture with an equally illuminating effect: a turquoise glass urn with painted gold trim, \$2,000. "One standout lamp such as this has a big impact in an otherwise safe space," Nisbet says. Even though it needs another shade, it offers the right vibrancy.

LOCAL COLORS

A few steps up the street we arrive at Room, 182 Duane, an emporium of contemporary pieces by emerging artisans. Nisbet is in search of wall color—and we're not talking about paint. Art is on her mind, and upon entering she is quick to admire a 30-inch by 40-inch botanical abstract, \$2,380, by local artist Sally Bennett. But the designer is looking for smaller canvases to use in a wall montage, and Room

doesn't disappoint. A collection by the same artist, \$300 each for 8-inch by 10-inch pieces, does the trick. Though the palette is more subtle—celadon, yellow and slate—it will still pack a punch in a large grouping, the designer reassures us.

We also spy options for another must-have accessory: pillows. "I

At Duane, the designer is attracted to a gold-trimmed blue lamp, right, and orange leather stools, below, both of which she says would make a bold statement in any room.



Color combines with texture and shape for added interest in the Judy Ross-designed pillow from Room, above, and canary-yellow lamp from Duane, right.

(www.corian.com); **fabrication: Evans and Paul** 718-661-1585 (www.evansandpaul.com)

Painting: Tony Conway 212-213-6767 (www.seniorandshopmaker.com)

Chairs: BDDW 212-625-1230 (www.bddw.com)

Hunting for hues



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Sink into relaxation

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