Deep South: Deco to 50’s
Fifties Foraging in Beantown
50’s & 60’s on the High Seas
Progress vs. Preservation in Miami
The Other Georgia
Retro Travel
The Echoes Report is published quarterly and is distributed throughout the U.S.

The purpose of The Echoes Report is to serve as a resource guide to consumers looking for vintage shops, news, and specific items regarding the 1930's-1960's eras.

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Deco Echoes Publications welcomes story ideas and articles from our readers. We want to provide a broad national base of information to serve the interests and needs of our subscribers.

LETTERS

Tell us how we're doing. We'd love to hear from you! Send us your letters, suggestions, or contributions. Send them to:

Deco Echoes Publications
P. O. Box 2321
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Deep South: Deco to 50’s

Where can you find 1930’s-1960’s items if you’re breezing through the Atlanta, GA area? We posed this question to several of the locals and they all said “Go to the Highlands!” The highlands? Is there a flood warning in effect? No, the Virginia Highlands in mid-town Atlanta. It’s a funky area full of boutiques and cafes, with an atmosphere right out of the Sixties. It’s the perfect place to spend a couple of hours browsing through the many specialty shops, and that’s just what we did!

At Catherine Stuart & Company and Poor White Trash’s combined shop we found a lot of chrome appliances, fiestaware, Halls pottery, vintage fabrics, lots of vintage clothing and a pair of bar stools. The small shop was full of interesting displays and everything was clean and orderly.

"The biggest and the best." That’s what we found at Antiques, Etc. owned by Vic and Delores Match. He claims he is the biggest and the best shop in the South for Deco through 50’s, and he’s got the stock to prove it! His huge shop, consisting of two front rooms and one bargain room in the rear is full of incredible pieces in mint condition. Erica phones, chrome soda fountain stools, formica kitchen table and chair sets, 50’s lamps, clocks, chairs, coffee tables, and much, much more! His stock is also in demand for movie and television sets. It has been featured in such hits as Freejack, Driving Miss Daisy, Robo Cop, Fried Green Tomatoes, and In The Heat of The Night. Definitely a must see shop!

After exhausting the Highlands area, and still hungry for more, we moved on to the "Chamblee Antique Row" in the Metro-Atlanta area. Here we were greeted by a large moose standing in a vintage 50’s car in front of the Moose Breath Trading Co! This "arrogantly shabby shop" is full of the wildest, most unusual stuff you’ll ever see.

Continued on page 14
Tupperware

Creation: 1950's

History: After leaving Dupont in the 1930's, Earl Tupper was determined to create his own line of products. In 1942 synthetic polymer polyethylene emerged on the scene, and Earl knew this was the material he needed to use. His first product was a 7 oz. bathroom tumbler, followed shortly by bowls with his trademark lids. The lid was fashioned after paint can lids, except reversed. This construction kept the bowl contents extremely fresh and stopped spills if the bowl was dropped.

Unfortunately, the bowls did not sell very well in retail stores. Tupper pulled them off the shelves and devised his brilliant home party system. Why did the parties succeed? In the 1950's, suburbia was a strange new place and Tupperware parties were the perfect way to meet your neighbors.

Today: Designer Morison Cousins was recently hired to update Earl's 1950's style containers. He replaced the old ridged-top canisters with sleek new white-walled versions with smooth colored tops.

Further: Visit the Tupperware World Headquarters in Orlando, Florida! It features over 150 historic food containers, and a Tupperware Home. You even get a free sample on the way out!

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Diane Petipas
50’s & 60’s on the High Seas

Ah, the 1920’s..the heyday of oceanliner travel...grand interiors, mahogany deck chairs...not so.

You may be surprised to learn that more people traveled by ship in the 1950’s than at any earlier time. At this time, a new traveler was joining the ranks of the upper class and poor immigrants who already used the ocean-liners for transportation, the middle class tourist.

The quintessence of 1950’s style can be seen in the S.S. Rotterdam, owned by the Holland-American Line. First launched in 1959, it began its tourist runs of the Caribbean and world cruises in 1969. Surprisingly, Holland-American has decided to preserve most of the interior so modern day travelers can cruise the high seas in authentic fifties decor! Coincidentally (or not) the Rotterdam is one of their most profitable ships afloat, and will begin transatlantic crossings in 1993.

Transatlantic crossings, you say? Isn’t that the QE2’s domain? Yes, it is. How could a cruiseliner with a 1950’s interior compete with the luxurious QE-2? Easily, since the QE-2 is a veritable floating museum of 1960’s high style decor...another step back in time. Helix stairs, molded plastic pedestal chairs, two million square feet of formica and color combinations such as pink with orange are just some of the elements used by top British designers to create the hallmark cruise liner for Cunard in 1969.

Unfortunately, modern day "renovations" have left the interior less than intact. Nevertheless, some of the original sixties scheme does remain--reminders of the fun, futuristic outlook of that era.

Boomerang tables or modular furniture on the high seas--you decide which cruise line you prefer.
This is Pee-Wee's Diner on Slappey Boulevard in Albany, Georgia! At night the pink neon lights up the facade and shines off the chrome band around the front. And a deal is still to be had with their 99 cent hamburgers!
Beantown Fifties Foraging

50's fans be aware -- there's a new shop in town and it's H O T -- Machine Age. Opened in December, 1991 and located on Congress Street in Boston, Massachusetts, Machine Age specializes in American 50's designer furniture by Eames, Bertoia, Noguchi, Breuer, Saarinen, and others.

Besides furniture, which comprises one half of the large showroom, Machine Age also carries antique fans, small appliances, a large collection of fifties lamps, china (i.e. Russell Wright), globes, and other collectibles. We must make special note of the fans; there are over 200 of them in stock, all fully restored and operational. One whole wall gleams with their chrome and brass blades, some of them spinning to deflect the heat of the hot summer afternoon.

Every piece in the showroom is in mint condition. Owner Normand Mainville understands that his customers want their items to be clean and operational, and he takes great pains to make them that way. He finds his constantly changing stock by attending auctions, flea markets, and travelling to distant cities such as Dallas and Montreal. An item will not be purchased unless it is in excellent condition -- no chipped, cracked, or broken pieces allowed.

Before the purchased stock ever sees the showroom floor, it must make a stop in the workshop located behind the showroom. Entering the workshop is like entering the land of the lost toys --dusty fans, dirty lamps, unfinished tables, chairs, bicycles, and much more pack this small space to the rafters. It is here that Normand sands and refinishes table tops, cleans the pottery, and checks the wiring on the fans, lamps, clocks, appliances, televisions, radios, telephones, and irons he sells. It is just this attention to detail and quality which has earned Normand an excellent reputation within the field in a small period of time.

Continued on page 18
Two-wheel version of the chrome and colors typical of the 50's automobiles, found at Machine Age.

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Progress vs. Preservation in Miami

On March 2, 1992, the Sands Hotel in Miami Beach, Florida was reduced to rubble. It took less than a week, and it was gone. Although the 1939 Streamlined Moderne building was a part of the National Register’s Miami Beach Art Deco District, it was refused protection by the city’s historic district, allowing the owners the right to secure a demolition permit.

The demolition of the Sands was the most significant setback for the preservation movement since the Senator Hotel was torn down in 1988 to make room for a parking lot. It also signifies the ongoing struggle between preservationists and Miami City officials to protect the district while promoting tourism. Approximately one fourth of the Art Deco District, containing over 800 hotels, apartment houses and other buildings, remains unprotected by local zoning laws or preservation ordinances.

To add fuel to the fire is the current city proposal for a new 1,000 room convention center within the district’s boundaries. Preservationists believe that it is just such projects as this that will destroy the very qualities that make the Art Deco District so appealing. They propose a network of smaller, restored hotels as a better, more logical, solution.

Of course, if you quickly look at Ocean Drive, the Art Deco District’s tourist mecca, you could conclude that the obvious success and prosperity must outweigh the problems. But too many cars, too many people, too little parking, and inflated property values threaten to destroy the residential neighborhood environment within the district. It is a difficult challenge to balance tourism with the needs of the residents.

Continued on page 21
Cone chair surrounded by 50's furnishings and accessories at Antiques, Etc.

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The Other Georgia

True, Atlanta has over 300 antique shops and malls. True, Atlanta has massive monthly antiques and collectibles shows. But Georgia is far from a one-city state!

Exits 42 and 43 from interstate 75 will drop you into Perry’s antique trail. Billing itself as the “Antique Capital of Georgia,” Perry hosts a monthly market at the Fairgrounds with over 100 quality dealers. There are always several dealers featuring 30’s through 60’s items, particularly 50’s and 60’s. There are also 33 dealers at the Perry Antique Mall, Inc. and slightly more at the Heartland Antique Mall.

For auction fans, Sunbelt Auctioneers in Tifton features a broad variety of high quality items. Recent auctions have presented enamel kitchen cabinets, fiestaware, 30’s-40’s pottery, Fada radios, art glass, and Deco wall hangings and sconces. Another auction with a varied offering is held in Pine Mountain near Columbus on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month. Most of their 30’s-60’s items are glassware and kitchen collectibles, although furniture occasionally surfaces.

Marietta boasts over 200 dealers clustered in four historic districts near interstate 75. Many of their shops are open on Sunday, which is an exception in Georgia. The Depression Glass Club holds their annual show and sale in late July at the Civic Center.

A few select items:

Gas pumps at Homespun & Sweet Antiques in Douglasville. Coca Cola items and cookie jars at Whistle Stop Antiques & Collectibles in Austell. Books at Magnolia Antiques in Douglasville.

Continued on page 13
Continued from page 12

Clocks at The Trading Post, also in Douglasville. Coca Cola, advertising signs, and gasoline memorabilia at Partners 'N Plunder in Dillard. Marbles at Bats in the Attic in Ringgold.

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Molded plastic chairs strike a dramatic pose in the window of Antiques, Etc.

Neon gas station sign, auto-arm loveseat, and pocket chair at Moose Breath Trading Co. are just a small sample of what is available at this warehouse.
Continued from page 3

They specialize in restaurant and saloon decor, movie and theater prop rentals, aviation memorabilia, and nautical and fire collectibles. The huge 20,000 square foot space is FULL of these items along with vending machines, pay phones, old signs, barber chairs and much more. It's definitely "not your average antique shop!"

At Claire Jackson's small booth in the Rust & Dust marketplace we found a whole wall full of 30's-60's items! Chrome ice buckets, celluloid dresser sets, a deco bakelite ink well and blue mirrored clocks were just some of the treasures to be had.

Further down "the row" was Indiana's Unique Antiques run by Pattie and Ron Jones (clever "Indiana-Jones"!) With Atlanta being the Coke capital of the world, it's appropriate that they had a huge display of vintage Coca-Cola items -- a bar and bar stools, signs, coolers, etc. .... They also had an impressive jukebox selling for $5800, barber chairs, neon signs, slot machines and an unusual 4 foot lighted palm tree which hangs on the wall.

FIFTIES was the word at Bill Cass's shop in the Broad Street Antique Mall! Blond hutches, Russell Wright, boomerang glasses, and eclipse glasses packed his booth to the hilt!

Also at the Broad Street Mall was the shop Past Tense which specializes in lunch boxes from the 50's,60's, and 70's. They also had Kewpie cups, Erica phones, chrome bar stools, fiestaware, and jewelry.

Continued on page 15

Excellent condition chrome kitchen set provides background for striking set of matched pedestal chairs at Antiques, Etc.
At Ann-tiques at the Mall we found a real treasure - vintage pocketbooks! 2 bakelite in solid colors and 4 celluloid purses in mint condition! They also had scarab bracelets and pins and hat boxes. A very nice little booth with exciting displays.

And at the Cannon Mall in Chamblee we spotted Red Rooster Collectibles run by Bonnie Boyle. She had general 30's-60's items, kitchen accessories, a grey formica kitchen table, vintage hats and palm tree pitchers.

So, if you're jetting through Atlanta, take a layover and visit the many exciting 30's-60's shops in the area!

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As long as you’re in the neighborhood, take a hop, skip, and a jump over to Populuxe on South Street in Boston, MA. We did!

Partner, Laurie Eaton, gave us a tour of the 2,000 square foot space, and it is FULL. Full of furniture, kitchen appliances, pottery, lamps, religious artifacts, and other collectibles from the 1930’s-1960’s eras in the front half. The rear is a veritable treasure trove of vintage clothing! Beaded and sequinned dresses, jeans, ties, purses, jewelry, glasses, hats, shoes, gloves, and much more. While I was there, I just had to purchase a pair of 60’s Foster Grant sunglasses--very cool and only $15!

Laurie says that the clothing sells out very fast, since their shop is located in a residential
area and they have developed a strong base of regular customers. So, the stock is constantly changing and new finds are always to be had!

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Wire chairs fall like raindrops from the ceiling of **Machine Age**.

Mannequin heads strike Vogue-like poses while displaying vintage hats and glasses at Populuxe.
Retro Travel

In 1990, Canada’s VIA RAIL company made a bold move. They dropped half of their trains, and completely refurbished the rest of their fleet, bringing it up to luxury standards.

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Lufthansa has taken a step back in air travel. To emphasize its long history in the air, it has purchased and restored a 1936 Junkers trimotor airplane. It will be used for sightseeing and charter service in Germany.

This particular airplane is one of the oldest planes still operating. Lufthansa purchased it in 1984 and spent a year on the restoration. It now has modern instruments and 16 custom-made passenger seats.

Similar in appearance to the Junkers trimotor airplane is the DC-3. Created in 1935, it offered passengers safety, comfort, luxury, and speed like they had never experienced before. It soon became the most popular passenger airplane of its day.

Today there are over one thousand DC-3’s still in operation. One of the best ways to see and experience one is the DC-3 Sky Tour offered by Otis Spunkmeyer Air. Located in the San Francisco Bay area of California, their tour provides breathtaking views of the Golden Gate Bridge, Alcatraz, Angel Island, Treasure Island, Fisherman’s Wharf, and the Marin coastline.

The nostalgic one hour flight is full of all the glamour, romance and luxury of air travel in the 1940’s, the heyday of the DC-3’s. Stewardesses are dressed in vintage uniforms, and 40’s popular tunes play overhead. Sunset tours and private parties are also available. To book a sentimental journey through the skies call 415-667-3800.
Behind the preservation movement is the Miami Design Preservation League, founded in 1976 by the late designer, Barbara Capitman. Her perseverance succeeded in getting the Art Deco District included in the National Register of Historic Places. At the time, it was a derelict neighborhood, but her son and his partner led the way by purchasing and renovating 10 hotels and opening two restaurants. The district started to attract attention, and today Art Deco weekend attracts as many as 400,000 people each January.

So what is the solution? The Miami Design Preservation League believes that expanding the Art Deco Historic District’s borders to coincide with the National Register’s borders would be a giant step forward. This would protect buildings within the district from being razed by requiring the owners to have a building permit in hand before demolition occurs. The Preservation Board would also have the right to deny demolition approval, and in that case, 5 of the 7 city commissioners would have to override the refusal before the demolition could occur.

Clearly, a balance must be reached between development and preservation, without the high cost of losing the beauty of a historic district.

NOTE: The 46th National Preservation Conference will be held in Miami from October 7-11. For more information call (800) 937-6847.

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