

November 19, 2006

## The Get: Indie City; Style Map | Wicker Park, Chicago

By LINDSEY GLADSTONE

The Magnificent Mile may be the place for big-name shopping, but for smaller, alternative stores, browse Wicker Park. Though real estate prices have spiked and American Apparel has moved into this bohemian district, there's a bumper crop of new boutiques, run by locally minded shop owners who are keeping the neighborhood's independent spirit alive. LINDSEY GLADSTONE

1. **Jade:** A former fashion stylist, Laura Haberman opened her women's boutique last year. The selection mimics her own effortless style: graphic print dresses from Nieves Lavi, batwing blouses from Mara Hoffman, earrings from K. Amato and bold rapper-style chains from Willy & Irv. 1557 North Milwaukee Avenue; (773)342-5233.
2. **Grow:** Deree Kobets's children's shop sells organic and modern wares for eco-friendly parents. Pick up biodegradable diapers, nontoxic mattresses, organic cotton onesies and nursery furniture by the local designer Ooba that won't clash with adult décor. 1943 West Division Street; (773)489-0009.
3. **Paper Doll:** For those who still believe that a dashed-off e-mail message isn't proper correspondence, this is one-stop shopping for all your stationery needs. Stacy and Kelly Swett, sisters who have been in the neighborhood since 2000, recently moved into this larger space, which features letterpress cards and candles from Snow & Graham, hand-cut cards from La Familia Green and silk-screened note paper from Tennis, Anyone? 2048 West Division Street; (773)227-6950.
4. **Coco Rouge:** Indulge in exotic chocolates in an equally fanciful setting. Erika Panther and Jeremy Brutzkus, who met at Le Cordon Bleu in London, create confections filled with lavender honey from Provence, marzipan made from hand-harvested almonds and white truffle oil from Alba in a room with mismatched black chandeliers and red concrete floors. 1940 West Division Street; (773)772-2626.
5. **Habit:** Using her store as a launching pad for new designers, Lindsey Boland offers limited-edition clothing from local talent like Katrin Schnabl, Abigail Glaum-Lathbury and **Ilissa Shefferman**. 1951 West Division Street; (773)342-0093.
6. **Hej fina:** Heiji Choy Black stocks men's and women's clothes from cutting-edge designers like United Bamboo, Maison Martin Margiela and Alexandre Herchcovitch. There are also art installations as well as a selection of furniture and architecture books. Black can curate your whole life: she suggests Rodan, across the street, for a cocktail and the nearby Milk and Honey Café (1920 West Division Street) for lunch. 1529 North Milwaukee Avenue; (773)772-0002.
7. **Black Walnut Gallery:** At his gallery, Robert Wayner mixes his own hand-done Nakashima-style wood benches and tables, sculpture and paintings by local artists and assorted midcentury pieces. The merchandise is always changing, though the one constant is Wayner's dog, Abby, who welcomes shoppers at the front door. 2135 West Division Street; (773)772-8870.
8. **Saint Alfred A sneaker freak's dream,** this shop specializes in hard-to-find kicks from obscure lines like Tokyo's Visvim and limited-edition collections, including Nike's One Time Only. Some of the shoes are artfully arranged in vintage luggage cases, alongside T-shirts and custom baseball caps. 1531 North Milwaukee Avenue; (773)486-7159.