

The ICONS

It's no secret that our region is home to world-class talent in the design world. And now, their favorite sources aren't a secret either. Here, three renowned designers reveal the places they love to shop, to dine, and to be inspired.

BY LUKE CHINMAN AND AMY CONWAY

Sheila Bridges' new home in Columbia County is filled with light, color, and her favorite things. The artwork here is by Kyle Meyer.



Sheila Bridges' *Go-Tos in the Hudson Valley*

Lauded for her visionary designs and signature Harlem Toile pattern, Sheila Bridges has been named America's Best Interior Designer by Time magazine. Her designs are in the permanent collections of museums, she has product collaborations with iconic brands, and, in 2022, she oversaw the redecoration of the official residence of Vice President Kamala Harris and Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff.

Oh, one more thing about her: She finds inspiration in the natural beauty, the light, and the landscape of the Hudson Valley. Bridges has owned a house here for 25 years—her first forays were to Hudson for antiques for clients—and, in 2019, she moved into a new home that she designed and built. It has soaring ceilings and is filled with beautiful and meaningful art. When she is here (she divides her time between Hudson, Harlem, and Iceland), Bridges is often working in her home studio—but she makes time to keep exploring. And here are some of her favorite finds.



Bridges is known for her Harlem Toile de Jouy pattern, which updates traditional French designs with vibrant scenes of African-American life. She has just launched a new collaboration with British silk specialist Gingerlily, featuring silk pillowcases and bolster pillows, kaftans and robes, and more. Gingerlily.com



FINCH, Hudson

Hudson

FINCH

427 Warren St.
finchhudson.com

The place to go for mid-century modern furniture, as well as accessories and clothing.

Lili and Loo

259 Warren St.
liliandloo.com

A favorite of mine for almost two decades—the owner, Melinda Slover, has a great eye and has crafted an eclectic mix of clothing, home accessories, furniture, and tabletop items.

MX Morningstar Farm

5956 NY-9H
mxmorningstarfarm.com

This farm and CSA has incredible organic veggies, eggs, breads, cheeses, and flowers.

Paula Greif Ceramics

419½ Warren Street
paulagreifceramics.com

Each of Paula's pieces is truly one-of-a-kind.



Paula Greif Ceramics, Hudson



Olana, Hudson, NY

Olana

5720 State Route 9G
olana.org

Frederic Church's Olana is a New York State Historic Site and National Historic Landmark. It offers great trail walking (bring your dog on a leash) with amazing Hudson River views. Be sure to get a house tour.

Tivoli

Tivoli General

54a Broadway
tivoli-general.com

Their house-made focaccia is to die for—and they make amazing sandwiches using it.

Fortunes Ice Cream

55 Broadway
fortunesicecream.com

Everything here is made from scratch, and the flavors change seasonally—labne sour cherry is my favorite.

Ghent

Shadow 66

47 Old Post Rd.
shadow66.com

At this new French restaurant, I love the escargot and mussels with saffron almost as much as I love the restored vintage Citroëns parked inside the restaurant. The place has great decor.



Art Omi, Ghent, NY | Hana Kassem and Spencer Topel, "Ensemble"

Art Omi

1405 County Route 22
artomi.org

This 120-acre arts center features the works of contemporary artists and architects in a setting you can explore for hours.

Germantown

Universal Café at Central House

220 Main St.
@universalcafe_ny

This new café and bar at the Central House Hotel has the best porch around—it's a great spot for cocktails and small bites.

Gaskins

2 Church Ave.
gaskinsny.com

Always a favorite for dinner.

Catskill

Catskill Chocolate Co.

473 Main St.
catskillchocolateco.com

With its delicious, ethically sourced handmade chocolates, this is one of my favorite shops in Catskill. And it's great for gifts.