

# Around Town: Charleston

Designer Angie Hranowsky shares some of her favorite hometown haunts.

## due south

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T t's not difficult to understand why a person Charleston, South Carolina, given its rich history, proximity to sand and surf, and picture-perfect antebellum ar Htecture and gardens. But the real attraction for interior designer Angie Hranowsky is the city's laid-back energy and ever-growing creative atmosphere. "The history and the beauty is what initially brought me here, but I soon realized what an easy and fun city it is, and that it's filled with incredible people," she says. We asked the talented tastemaker to take us on a tour of her favorite hot spots, from upand-coming eateries to her sources for the best antiques

and vintage wares.

#### The Commons

The historic Lower King Street district is a great place to start exploring, especially if the exploring begins in The Commons, a new showroom inside Heirloom Books where visitors can shop for American-made home goods. Founded by fashion industry veterans Erin Connelly and Kerry Speake, the space is spare, modern, and filled with heirloomworthy pieces-from cutting boards by Blackcreek Mercantile & Trading Co. to copper shot glasses by Jacob Bromwell. (541/2 Broad St.; the-commons.us)

## John Pope Antiques

On King Street, up a set of very narrow stairs to a second floor piazza and

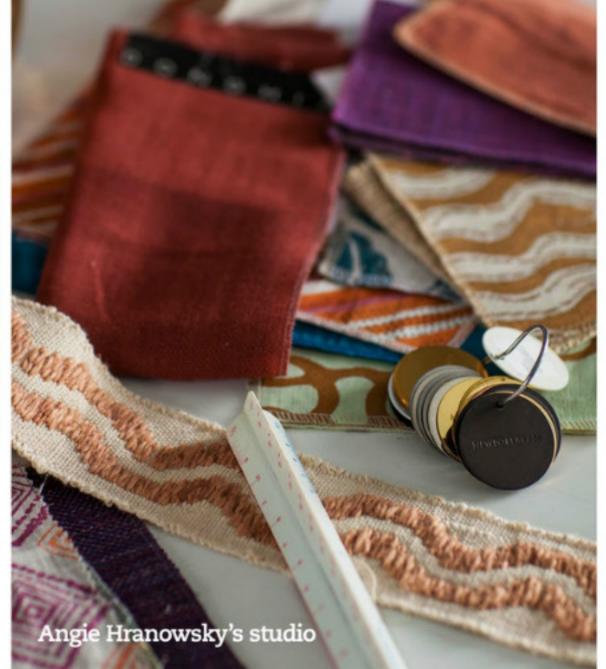




The Commons





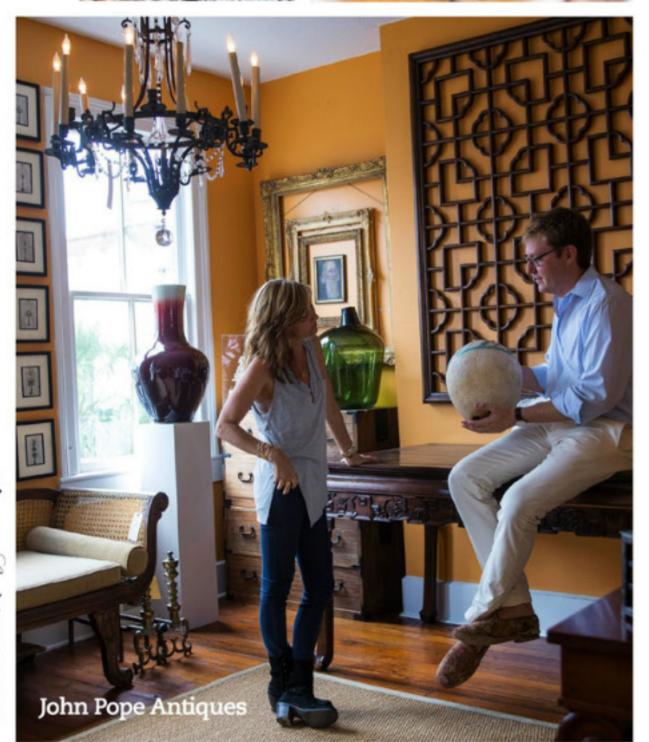




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through a lovely peachhued door, sits John Pope Antiques—a trove of treasures from almost every era imaginable. "John has an amazing eye," Hranowsky says. "He's so knowledgeable about the provenance of antiques and also carries modern things, which I gravitate toward." (180 King St.; johnpopeantiques.com)

### Worthwhile

To peruse clothing and gifts in one of Charleston's most memorable shops, head for this gem. Housed in a charming 19th-century storefront, the boutique is set up like a minimalist museum of all things avant-garde. (268 King St.; shopworthwhile.com)

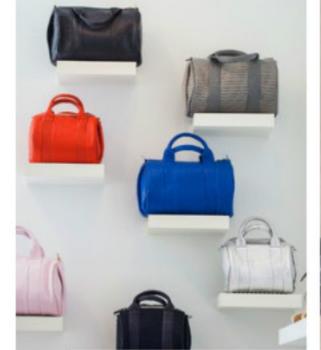
#### James

Stacy Smallwood opened James-an extension of her downtown clothing shop Hampden—to bring high-end, high-fashion accessories to Charleston. "I love that I can find something at James that I can't get anywhere else," Hranowsky says. (314 King St.; hampdenclothing.com)

## Blue Bicycle Books

Independent bookstores are becoming a rarity, but thankfully, Charleston's beloved Blue Bicycle Books is thriving. "My daughter













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LouLou has taken writing classes here, and I love that they have great old books and new," Hranowsky says. The shop is easy to spot: Just look for the blue bicycle perched out front. (420 King St.; bluebicyclebooks.com)

## Xiao Bao Biscuit

Lunch is the perfect reason to move into the hip Cannonborough-Elliotborough area for alfresco dining among the banana leaves and bright green picnic tables at Xiao Bao Biscuit. "I just love their mix of ingredients," Hranowsky says. "It used to be a gas station, and they did an amazing job with both the interior and the exterior. I love the atmosphere." (224 Rutledge Ave.; xiaobaobiscuit.com)



## Mac & Murphy

A post-lunch stroll down nearby Cannon Street will bring you to Mac & Murphy-a modern paper goods and gift shop. "This is the best stationery place in town," Hranowsky says. "Their things are superchic and whimsical," she adds. (741/2 Cannon St.; macandmurphy.com)

### Sugar

Cross the street for a cupcake or a cookie at this nostalgic-meets-modern bakery. It's the sort of sweet spot where goods are artfully displayed in vintage glass cases and orders are boxed up and tied with colorful string. The outdoor terrace is the perfect spot to sit and savor. (591/2 Cannon St.; sugarbake.com)



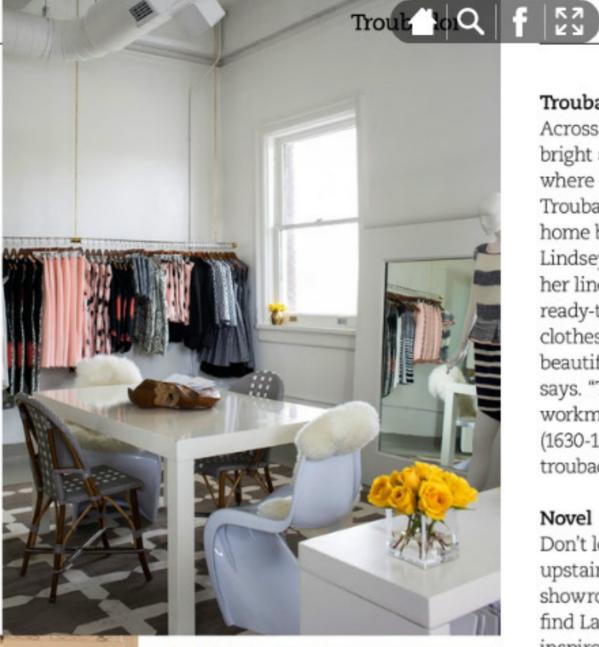














### **Troubadour Clothing**

Across town, in the same bright and airy building where Hranowsky offices, Troubadour Clothing is home base for designer Lindsey Carter and her line of feminine ready-to-wear. "Her clothes are just insanely beautiful," Hranowsky says. "The details, the workmanship, all of it." (1630-1 Meeting St., Suite 203; troubadourclothing.com)



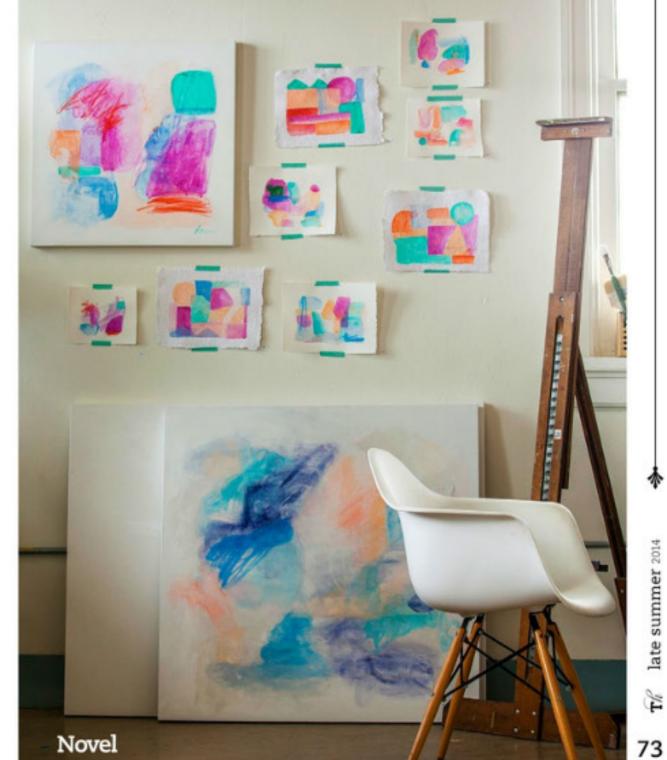
Don't leave without heading upstairs to Novel—a joint showroom where you'll find Lauren Lail's vintageinspired clothing label, Library; Liza Cleveland's letterpress stationery line, Bon Vivant; and abstract art by artist Way Way Allen. "I love vintage everything, from clothes to furniture," Hranowsky says. Visits are by appointment only. (1630-1 Meeting St., Suite 308; novelcharleston.com)

#### Leon's

Brought to life by Brooks Reitz and Tim Mink, Leon's Oyster Shop offers up unpretentious oysters, fried chicken, cold beer, salads, and soft-serve ice cream out of an equally unpretentious location: a renovated autobody repair shop. "It has a







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great casual vibe and makes you want to hang out for awhile," Hranowsky says. "Their Siam salad is so good, I've even attempted making it at home!" (698 King St.; leonsoystershop.com)

#### Butcher & Bee

Fuel up on Saturday with brunch at Butcher & Bee. The menu is ever-changing according to seasonal availability and is posted on Facebook, but comfort foods such as French toast are mainstays on Saturdays and Sundays. (654 King St.; butcherandbee.com)

#### Perla Anne

New York has Central
Park; Charleston has
Marion Square Park. Every
Saturday, this park is alive
with vendors such as artist
Stacey Bradley of Perla
Anne, who sells her handprinted linoleum and wood
cut art. "Bradley is the most
beautiful soul. You want
to scoop up her things and
take them home to feel
inspired," Hranowsky says.

(Charleston Farmer's Market; etsy.com/shop/PerlaAnne)

### **Proud Mary**

While you can't physically visit a retail space for Proud Mary textiles, it isn't hard to find designer Harper Poe's goods—or her influence. Poe, who founded her company to help support textile artisans around the globe, collaborates with them to create handmade goods that reflect her modern aesthetic. To see Poe's pieces in Charleston, look for them

Proud Mary

## And don't miss...

Urban Electric for inspired lighting. (2130 N. Hobson Ave.; urbanelectricco.com)

The Farmbar for an eye-opening and mouthwatering farm-to-table meal. They're on the move—visit their website for locations. (thefarmbar26.com)

The George Gallery for contemporary art by southern artists. (50 Bogard St.; georgegalleryart.com)

**Bin 152** for wine, cheese, art, and antiques. (152 King St.; bin152.com)

Two Boroughs Larder for seasonal American cuisine. (186 Coming St.; twoboroughslarder.com)
Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art at The College of Charleston for art and inspiration.
(161 Calhoun Street, halsey.cofc.edu)



**Butcher & Bee** 



at Worthwhile and Mac & Murphy, or visit her website. (proudmary.org)



