

Brick and Mortar

YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD, YOUR NEIGHBOURS

BY LESLIE SINCLAIR

1 APOTHECA COMPOUNDING PHARMACY

Located in the heart of Forest Hill Village, Apotheca is a modern, full-service pharmacy complete with a compounding lab. Owner, Nancy Amos was inspired to create a more serene environment here after visiting the beautiful pharmacies in France. "It didn't occur to me until I went there that pharmacies don't have to be such a blah experience," she says. One of Nancy's goals at Apotheca is to help clients fuse medical advice from both eastern and western traditions. Apotheca also offers a curated selection of personal care products, including a selection of pharmaceutical grade supplements so there's no confusion about picking the right one. While Apotheca looks luxe, the prices are comparable to the big chains. Most important to Nancy is how her customers feel. "Even though people are getting medications and they may not always feel well, I want it to be an uplifting experience for them," Nancy says.

417 Spadina Road, 416-322-0123, apothecapharmacy.ca

2 STUBBE CHOCOLATES

"We're not a hipster place," says Daniel Stubbe of his shop on Dupont. Meaning, a visit to Stubbe Chocolates is an exercise in tradition — the business is six generations old. Stubbe is a konditorei, a German pastry shop specializing in chocolate. All the classic chocolates and truffles are made at Stubbe, but you'll also find cakes, cookies, and pastries. At Stubbe, an enchanting open window between the retail space and the kitchen serves the dual purpose of allowing customers watch Daniel and his staff create chocolate masterpieces while giving staff immediate feedback on their work. You'd be remiss to leave Stubbe without picking up a few Florentines, a caramelized honey and almond cookie with chocolate on the bottom. "It's a really old-school recipe that goes back to my great aunt on my mother's side," says Daniel, "and we still make it today the way she did it."

653 Dupont Street, 416-923-0956, stubbechocolates.com

3 VINTAGE HOME BOUTIQUE

Keith and Maureen Lobo are thrilled to transform a space originally destined to become a drive-thru into a brand new store for the St. Clair West community. Just opened in September, Maureen says, "It's going to be a really great spot for people to do furniture shopping and it's something that's not in the neighbourhood — we're really excited about it." Their focus is on great furniture, particularly quality vintage, new custom sofas and chairs, and live edge pieces. Vintage Home Boutique also provides an eco-friendly furniture refinishing service to freshen up your existing gems. Keith and Maureen love decor and are passionate about helping people create homes that work for them. "The look that we're going for is very eclectic," Keith says, "We're trying to really ensure people understand that you can mix woods. You can mix periods, styles and textures and still have a cohesive decor."

722 St. Clair West, 416-274-3253, vintagehomeboutique.ca

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HAPPENING
SHOP LOCAL

