

Joie de Vie and Chelsea Antiques A European Corner in Birmingham

It's like walking into a little corner of Europe when you visit the two antique stores located at one address at 700 North Woodward - nestled among the charming galleries in Uptown Birmingham.

Joie de Vie offers authentic country French antiques, fine European pine reproductions and country accessories imported from France. Next door, Chelsea Antiques Ltd., is reminiscent of the Chelsea area of London which is full of eclectic antique shops. Chelsea Antiques offers authentic 18th and 19th century English and French furniture along with a full array of Chinese and Japanese porcelain, pottery and other accessories.

Joie de Vie is owned by Joy Clenett-Brealey and Valerie Brund-Walsh of Harbor Springs where two Joie de Vie stores are located, including the original which is located in a farmhouse that would sit just as well in the French countryside as a country road leading to Petoskey. Joy, originally from Franklin, Michigan, married a Frenchman and moved to France where she met her future best friend and business partner Valerie. Later both women moved to Michigan with their respective families. Pamela Evans is the in-house interior designer and store manager of Joie de Vie in Birmingham. "It was Joy and Valerie who really started the trend toward French country antiques in this area," she confides. The Birmingham Joie de Vie is replete with comfortable French country items ranging from tiny French soap, pottery and colorful flowered linens to farmhouse tables and

strong reputation among individual customers and designers for finding hard to get European antiques. The store offers its "Want List" which is actually a wish list. When a coveted item shows up on the European antique market, Joie de Vie gets it for the patient customers.

Chelsea Antiques Ltd. is owned by partners Francine T. McGuire and Norma B. Kestler. Interior designer McGuire met Kestler while both were



Manager Pamela Evans offers authentic country French antiques in her Joie de Vie store at 700 N. Woodward.

working at Walter Hertz Interiors. Kestler, an avid antiques collector, and McGuire who had worked at another antique shop for over 16 years had often talked about the possibility of owning their own place. They feel like Chelsea Antiques Ltd. is a dream come true.

McGuire and Kestler take regular buying trips to England and Scotland and also get items from sources in the South, Midwest and Canada. The result is an elegant but comfortable and eclectic atmosphere in their store, showing off fabulous large pieces as well as small treasures.

Chelsea Antiques has been invited to design rooms in the Detroit Symphony Designer Show Houses for many years. Last year, its show house kitchen, featuring period antique chairs, chandeliers and one of a kind accessories, was featured in *Woman's Day Kitchen and Bath* summer magazine issue. Readers from Colorado, Arizona, Nevada and California called Chelsea Antiques which has, in turn, successfully placed outstanding pieces with these clients.

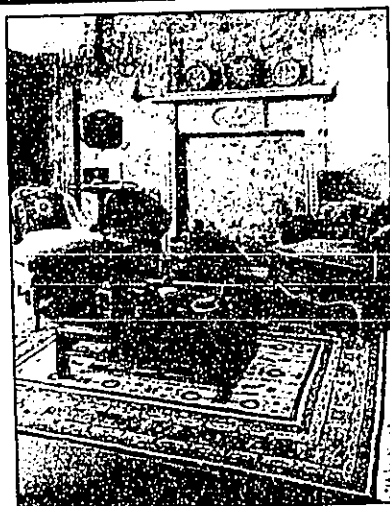
The extensive resources of McGuire and Kestler, at Chelsea Antiques, allow them to offer design services that are personalized and custom tailored to various clients' tastes.



Francine McGuire shows off 18th century porcelain displayed in an antique corner cabinet.

authentic French armoire's plucked from real French Chateaus. Evans' decorating finesse was shown off and admired in this year's Detroit Symphony Show House and the Detroit Junior League Show House. Evans says that Joie de Vie has built a

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