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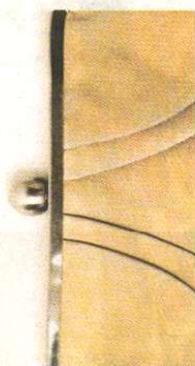
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On the cover: A massage at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel Spa, 921 Canal St., 504.524.1331. Staff photo by Chris Granger

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My favorite things

Alexa Pulitzer

From silk neckties to custom stationery to fancy Styrofoam go-cups, designer Alexa Pulitzer's creative streak has left its imprint on a wide variety of surfaces.

A New Orleans native who trained in Italy, Pulitzer's designs are stocked in fine retailers from London to Toronto to Tokyo, and here at home at Adler's and the Historic New Orleans Collection, among other shops.

She's best known for her La Cartoleria paper goods and stationery, though her Renaissance-inspired monograms and Louisiana motifs — alligators to fleurs des lis — have found their way into other mediums, from T-shirts to hand towels.

Pulitzer's first foray into art began in her family's textile company, Wembley Corp. As a teen, she accompanied her father on buying trips to Italy



PHOTOS BY SHERWOOD COX
◀ Alexa Pulitzer in front of her husband Seth's "three-tiered tie wall," which holds about 300 ties, 95 percent of which she designed.

each summer, designing her first necktie at 16.

Today the 35-year-old designer spends most of her time creating designs that get printed on paper. She began crafting notepads from textile patterns she might have used on silk ties.

"It was at Wembley, unintentionally, that my dreams took root," she said. "We had a print shop downstairs where the samples were manufactured, and I was encouraged by my father to design my camp and boarding school stationery."

Now, when not juggling work with the demands of raising her toddler daughter, Kagan, Pulitzer likes to indulge her love of the tactile. "Shoes, jewelry, fabric and music are my favorite things," she says.

She admits to giving in to the occasional fashion splurge. In a Wall Street Journal article two years ago, she mused over a pair of green python Claudia Ciuti heels.

At home, though, Pulitzer said her "aesthetic is for older things. I have very classic taste." Here are five of her favorite finds and latest creations.



"I AM ADDICTED TO THE NEW LIMITED-EDITION SET FROM PRESERVATION HALL THAT INCLUDES A TREASURE TROVE OF RARE UNRELEASED RECORDINGS, ORIGINAL PHOTOGRAPHS, A DVD AND MORE."

Preservation Hall Jazz Band's "Made in New Orleans: The Hurricane Sessions," deluxe box set, \$70 at the Louisiana Music Factory, 210 Decatur St., 504.586.1094, or www.preservationhall.com.



"THESE CANDLES ARE HAND-POURED IN AN ETCHED FRENCH URN. MY FAVORITE FRAGRANCE IS 'GULLAH' (IN HONOR OF THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN CULTURE ON THE SEA ISLANDS). A PORTION OF THE CANDLE SALES GOES TO SUPPORT THE PENN CENTER TO HELP PRESERVE THE LEGACY OF THE GULLAH CULTURE."

Southern Botanical "Gullah" candle, \$55 at Adler's, 722 Canal St.; and at Lakeside Shopping Center, Metairie, 504.523.5292, www.adlersjewelry.com.



"I CONSIDER LACE LINGERIE TO BE A WORK OF ART AND IRRESISTIBLE. MY HUSBAND SPOILS ME WITH LINGERIE."

Bra, \$110, panties, \$56, coverup, \$220 at House of Lounge, 2044 Magazine St., 504.671.8300.

— Bonnie Baber

"BY FAR MY MOST FAVORITE POSSESSION, THESE ARE WOVEN FROM ITALIAN SILK AND CASHMERE FOULARDS (SHAWLS). THE PILLOWS WERE A GIFT FROM MY MENTOR IN COMO, (ITALY)."

Oversized jacquard cashmere and silk pillows, \$1,500 at www.alexapulitzer.com.



"BEING A TRUE NEW ORLEANIAN, I AM FOND OF THE 'TO GO' CUP CONCEPT. THESE DECORATIVE STYROFOAM CUPS CAN BE WASHED IN THE DISHWASHER — HENCE 'REUSABLE,' WHICH I FANCY — AND THEY CAN HOLD BOTH HOT CAFE AU LAIT AND COLD COCKTAILS."

Customized, 20-ounce Styrofoam cups, \$150 for a package of 250 at www.alexapulitzer.com.

