



“

I am my mother's son, and my partner and I have knocked heads about all the knick knacks.”

searched magazines. Find what grabs your heart. Purple sofa? Great! Industrial chic? Go for it! At this point you're only taking pictures for your design file – and again, bear in mind that you will sort this all out later. (Here is a tip: Take a full-on picture of the item and then a separate picture of the price tag. It will make budgeting and remembering the store much easier.) The goal of shopping is to discover what you really want, and it's also an education in pricing items. It's always a shock to most people what things cost.

GET INSPIRED

Pay attention when you're out and about. Portland is filled with amazing places, talented architects and gifted designers. I love looking at open houses – nothing makes me happier than walking into a nicely designed and furnished home regardless of how much is spent on furnishings. I've seen bungalows that are better designed and decorated than mansions in the West Hills. Do you love the interior of a certain hotel? How about your favorite restaurant? Most of us are now blessed with a digital phone that can easily take photos. It may be a lighting fixture, window treatments or simply the way a room is laid out. Is it a bathroom you like? (Note: You