



"My work tends to be somewhat feminine, and classic elements are always used," says designer Victoria Sanchez, owner of Alexandria's Victoria at Home. "I'm often inspired by color and textiles." *Opposite:* An example of Sanchez's work from the annual DC Design House is featured here.

OPPOSITE: KEVIN ALLEN. OPPOSITE: GORDON BEALL. TOP RIGHT: COURTESY CIRCA LIGHTING.

After 14 years of shopping for her clients, interior designer Victoria Sanchez has just become her own source—opening a new home furnishings and design boutique in the heart of Old Town Alexandria. "I use the store as a calling card for potential clients," Sanchez says. "But I also felt a void in the area for quality home goods in a retail setting." Her store, Victoria at Home, offers a carefully curated collection of fabrics, furniture and accessories customarily available only to design professionals, and her stock includes a mix of traditional and transitional lines by Hickory White, Circa Lighting, Arteriors Home, Kravet, and Stark Carpet. "I only buy what I love for the store—every item here is a direct reflection of my design aesthetic," says Sanchez, who describes that style as "modern classic," with a touch of femininity and bold color. When is a home finally done? "Never!" Sanchez says with a smile. "We're constantly being exposed to new ideas. Interior design is always evolving, and as we do the same, our surroundings have to reflect that." victoriaathome.com; 703.836.1960

Sanchez likes to choose dramatic pieces—such as this Hampton pendant from Circa Lighting—when arranging the vignettes in her store.



COMING HOME

VICTORIA SANCHEZ



TREND YOU'RE EXCITED BY:
Wallpaper and chintz!

PERIOD YOU FIND MOST ENGAGING:
Anything French. Think a 17th-century apartment with a view of the Seine.

DREAM COLLABORATION:
New York designer Alexa Hampton. The classic details she brings to her designs are flawless, and I love her use of antiques so they always look fresh.

WHAT DO YOU COLLECT?
Daylilies, peonies and hydrangeas.

I'M READING...
Unbroken, by Laura Hillenbrand, *In with the Old: Classic Decor from A to Z*, by Jennifer Boles, and *Dearie: The Remarkable Life of Julia Child*, by Bob Spitz.

MOST PEOPLE DON'T KNOW:
I own a 1962 Austin-Healey Sprite, totally restored and painted a custom red to match my lipstick!

ENTERTAINING DOS AND DON'TS:
Don't ever take flowers to a hostess that aren't already arranged. Do take your best smile and a beverage.