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### Fine Living: Mixing architecture and jewelry

*PJ Bremier IJ correspondent*

WHEN ALICE ROCHE took a jewelry class nine years ago, it was simply "to counterbalance time spent in front of the computer," she says. The daughter of an internationally renowned architect and Pritzker Architecture Prize-winning father, Kevin Roche (the Oakland Museum, the Ford Foundation, and the Master Plan for the Metropolitan Museum of Art), she herself was an architect for the San Francisco firm, Rossington Architecture.

"I didn't realize it was going to become my career, but I also had a feeling that I wasn't going to be an architect forever, either," she says.

Realizing there was a natural transition between the two, she launched **Alice Roche Jewelry** in 2005 on the side and left architecture three years later to focus solely on her jewelry designs.

This month, she introduces a new series of limited edition cuff bracelet called "Cutups," a collaboration between Alice and her father based on his personal drawings. They intersect architecture and design with cleverness and humor.

"I love the idea that these cuffs really pay homage to my father," she says. "My father is perceived as being a serious man, but in fact he has a very humorous side to him. He is also a fierce observer and when you pair those two qualities with practicing architecture for 65 years, you gather a lot of fodder."

The first cuff, dubbed "A Short History of Architecture," reduces the "potentially serious and overwhelming topic of architecture" to three simple icons and sells for \$2,800.

A new cuff will be released each month of 2012. Each 14-karat overlay on sterling silver cuff is made-to-order. Future themes include "Love and Marriage" and "Project Management."

Alice Roche considers the concept of these cuffs as "comics," a curt graphic that sums up something that might otherwise take a novel to explain and a reminder that "life is not as complicated as people often make it."

Her company is committed to using reclaimed metals and American manufacturing. Additionally, 20 percent of her profits each month go to a charity — this month it's the ASPCA — and for individuals or groups who are looking for fundraisers, trunk show hosts receive 15 percent of the event's proceeds.

For information, visit [www.aliceroche.com](http://www.aliceroche.com).

Designer eggs

Barbara Friedman, the former owner of Bennett Valley Farm — a producer of dried wreaths and floral arrangements — introduced Martha Stewart to the ancient art of Washi, or paper, Eggs and this spring she wants to show you, too.

She has scheduled classes at tea shops in Sebastopol and Santa Rosa through March. A fee of \$35 covers the class, materials and tea. She can also come to your house for private lessons for an additional fee.

Traditionally, she says, eggs are symbols of new beginnings and shared among friends. They're perfect for creative Easter baskets or in a simple bowl on a tabletop.

"These decorative eggs are super easy to make and will delight your family and friends season after season," she says. She will also have Washi Egg kits available for sale so you can make more at home.

Participants in her classes create three decorative Washi Eggs using selections from her collection of more than 60 beautiful papers. Barbara will demonstrate how to weave twigs and grasses from your garden into a pretty and natural nest for the eggs.

For information, call 707-696-2009 or visit [www.barbarafriedman.com](http://www.barbarafriedman.com).

PJ Bremier writes on home, garden, design and entertaining topics every Saturday and also on her blog at [DesignSwirl.net](http://DesignSwirl.net). She may be contacted at P.O. Box 412, Kentfield, CA 94914, or at [pj@pjbremier.com](mailto:pj@pjbremier.com).

[Photo:](#)

[The cuff bracelet 'A Short History of Architecture' from Alice Roche Jewelry.](#)

[Provided by PJ Bremier](#)

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