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On the Town

BY LARA HALE



PHOTO BY MATTHEW WILLIAMS

Porter and Hollister Hovey will return to their hometown of K.C. on June 1 to promote their new book, *Heirloom Modern*.

STYLISH SISTERS

Kansas City-raised sisters and design stars Porter and Hollister Hovey moved to Brooklyn, NY, years ago, but they say their eclectic style is very much informed by their childhood here.

"We're full-out Kansas Citians," Porter

says. "A lot of our decorating taste was formed when we were children, and a lot of that has to do with the rich cultural experiences we had. We went to the Nelson and the Kemper, and our parents always took us to La Bonne Bouchée on the Plaza. That was the biggest

thrill because we pretended to be little ladies having tea."

Thanks in part to those experiences, the little ladies now are making a big mark on the design world. They have been featured in *The New York Times* on several occasions and have recently published their first book, *Heirloom Modern* (Rizzoli, \$50), which highlights homes (including their own Brooklyn apartment) with a unique style created by diverse elements, especially those collected from the owners' past.

"It doesn't matter who you are or where you come from, every person has a rich personal history and family history," Hollister says. "Even if you don't have heirlooms, you can think back to the memories you have from when you were little and search for things that remind you of that and bring those into your home so it kind of becomes like a living autobiography. It's not just about an aesthetic, it's about a process."

It's an ongoing process, they say, explaining that they follow their late mother's advice and always pick up some special memento from everywhere they visit. When in K.C., the two have some regular haunts:

"River Market Antiques, the State Line antiques district, Waldo Antiques, and of course Westport Flea Market," Hollister says. "Our favorite is Architectural Salvage. It's always the coolest place to go."

They'll have a chance to visit them all when they are back in Kansas City next month: They'll be signing copies of *Heirloom Modern* from noon to 2 p.m. on June 1 at the Anthropologie store on Country Club Plaza. Follow hollisterhovey.blogspot.com for updates.

