



Light Master Gregory Kay

Gregory Kay, founder of the country's premier modern lighting showcase, **Lightology**, is an illumination rock star. A master electrician who began his career wiring roller discos in the '70s, Kay has won nearly every one of the lighting industry's top awards for design. Interior decorators and architects across the country depend on him to winnow what's next and what's best from emerging technologies the world over. Lightology's showroom displays more than 12,000 light fixtures in its 20,000-square-foot space, from LEDs and monorail systems to chandeliers to contemporary indoor and outdoor lighting, and many are Kay's own creative designs. He credits much of his success to, of all people, the man who created the pulsating dance floor in *Saturday Night Fever*, Paul Gregory. "He taught me the magic of lighting," says Kay of his mentor. "Now things come to me in my sleep. I'm always trying to do something that's never been done before." Still, he can't resist one homage to the past: The Lightology showroom features a recreation of Travolta's old dance floor. White suit optional. 215 W. Chicago Ave., 312-944-1000; lightology.com

Media Systems Baumeister Electronic Architects

This firm—the only one in the area where both installers and programmers are in-house—just won the 2007 Home of the Year award from *Electronic House* magazine, a techie's version of an Oscar. Baumeister's crew can program a button on your car-key fob so your house lights go on, the AC kicks in, and your favorite music begins to play—all while you're still sitting on the expressway. Perhaps even more important, these pros are there for you if something goes haywire (they have a 24/7 repair service with guaranteed response times). 5693 W. Howard St., Niles, 847-324-5077; bavi.net



ASIAN ANTIQUES THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE

This block-long, 23,000-square-foot Asian emporium, recently expanded and relocated from a spot up the street, features Chicago's largest collection of Thai and Chinese antiques. The gallery's door opens into a fully furnished five-room 19th-century Thai veranda house, disassembled and moved here along with an astounding ancient terra cotta-tiled 18th-century Chinese courtyard house. "We're wood fanatics," says co-owner Doug Van Tress, and he's not kidding. You'll see everything from an antique Chinese elm sideboard (\$6,000) to a rosewood bench made of reclaimed Thai railroad ties (\$2,200). 330 N. Clark St., 312-755-1266; goldentriangle.biz



ETHNIC ARTIFACTS PRIMITIVE

A trip to Glen Joffe's 40,000-square-foot showroom of ethnographic home furnishings and adornments is like an exotic vacation without the jet lag. Offerings range from anthropomorphic wooden fence posts from the Gurage people of Ethiopia to bronze West African currency to the Five Elements library carved out of aged camphor wood in China. Mosquito spray not required. 130 N. Jefferson St., 312-575-9600; beprimitive.com



Luscious Textiles **Maison Suzanne**

"Coming out here is much less expensive than going to Paris," says owner Suzanne Cahill of her shop, which is filled with furniture, textiles, and pillows in many styles, from fringe-covered to sleek. Cahill uses unusual European antique textiles, such as a Deco Dutch mohair you're unlikely to find anywhere else, to transform Old World furniture into lush, dramatic conversation pieces. Don't miss her antique needlepoint, Aubusson, and tapestry pillows. 479 N. Main St., Glen Ellyn, 630-469-0111; maisonsuzanne.com

THE REAL DEAL **THOMAS JOLLY ANTIQUES**

When we last spoke to Thomas Jolly, he had just sent off a shipment to the offices of big-shot interior designers Victoria Hagan and Mark Hampton. And Ian Schrager, the New York-based über-hotelier, had just bought a funky late-19th-century Venetian grotto chair from Jolly through 1stdibs.com, the selective auction site on which only a handful of Chicago dealers are represented. This made us feel lucky that we have this charming dealer here in our backyard, and that if we want, he will deliver a piece to our doorstep before we even pay for it. 124 W. Kinzie St., 312-595-0018; thomasjollyantiques.com

PHOTOGRAPHY: (LIGHTLOGY) MCARTHURPHOTOGRAPHY.COM; HAIR AND MAKEUP: LILLIAN SAKAWAKI

FURNITURE RESTORERS **BERNACKI & ASSOCIATES**

Give him your tired, your poor, your water-stained veneers. Bart Bjorneberg, director of conservation at this 20-year-old firm, will cater to your precious antique furnishings' every need. Whether it's for reproducing carved elements or restoring leather upholstery, this is where designers Alessandra Branca, Heather Wells, and Leslie Jones (and major collectors) turn. 424 N. Oakley Blvd., 312-243-5669; bernackiconservation.com

Reclaimed Showstoppers **Revival**

Interior designers and savvy amateurs alike flock to this treasure trove of vintage goods. Owner Mark Steinke's impeccable selection of diverse mid-century and other period pieces—a 1970s Richard Himmel Lucite bench, vintage five-panel smoked mirrors—may lead you to load up a U-Haul and drive away happy. 1401 W. Irving Park Rd., 773-248-1211; rerevival.com



PHOTOGRAPHY: (GOLDEN TRIANGLE) MATTHEW GILSON