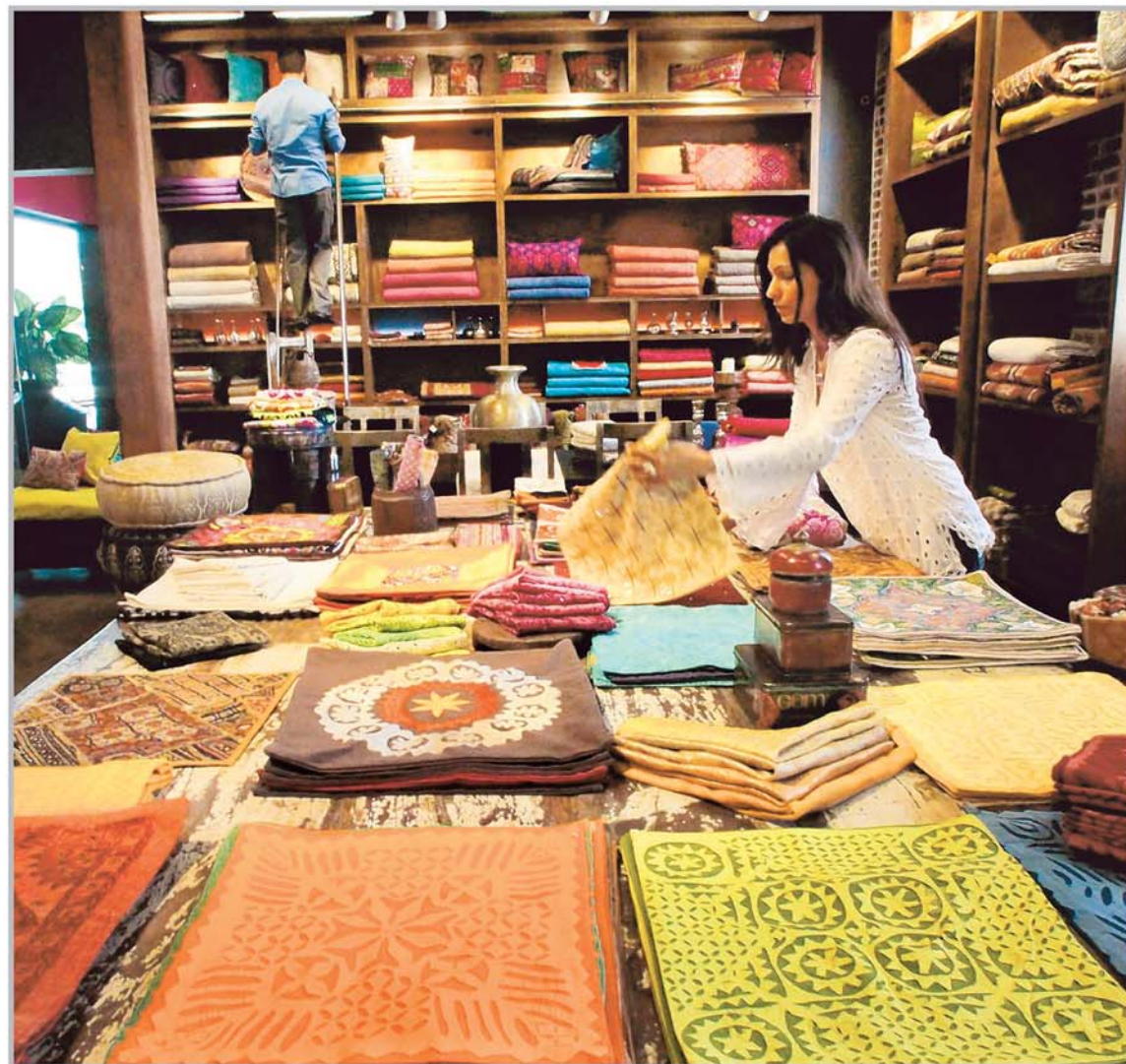


HOME & DESIGN



Photographs by ANNE CUSACK Los Angeles Times

HAND-STITCHED pillow covers in vibrant colors, above, are arranged by store owner Deepali Pareek, above, and architectural salvage and furniture, right, are displayed at De-Cor in Pasadena.

FINDS

A sleek setting for lush designs

The biggest surprise of the new Pasadena store De-Cor isn't its off-the-radar location, a few miles east of Restoration Hardware, Pottery Barn and the rest of the city's popular Old Town. Nor is it De-Cor's sheer size, which feels larger than that of the other home stores. Nor is it De-Cor's pricing, which seems quite reasonable given the detailing and heart of its handcrafted work.

The biggest surprise might be the space itself: smartly modern and sleek in a good way, with a polished concrete floor and sandblasted wood ceiling beams that showcase the vibrantly colored, pattern-rich designs in a thoroughly loft-like environment.



Designed by Sat Garg of the Santa Monica architecture and interiors firm AkarStudios, the store is a fine setting for imports from the Indian subcontinent, reinterpreted for contemporary Southern California.

Owner Deepali Pareek stocks furniture from her factory in India and imported architectural salvage, but what sets De-Cor apart are the hand-stitched pillows and bed covers. Fabrics from Pareek's twice-yearly buying runs punch up poufs and ottomans. Customer favorites: lumbar pillows accented with material from vintage skirts. 30 S. San Gabriel Blvd., Pasadena; (626) 405-0897, www.de-cor.com

— CRAIG NAKANO