

HOME & AWAY

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YOUR GUIDE
TO EXPLORING
THE WORLD

INSIDE

Timeless pieces fill Clayton condo of former interior designer. **Page H4**

The Golden Gate Bridge celebrates its 75th anniversary, offering a perfect excuse to visit San Francisco. **Page H6**

The Bale Out • A 1960s Austrian two-piece suit (\$100). Modeled by Camille Edgar.



Rung • The red Semantiks two-piece suit (\$65, suits 50 percent off on Thursdays), white asymmetrical stretch top (\$20); multichain necklace (\$16), necklace with bob being worn as a belt (\$14) and Lord and Taylor dress hat (\$50). Modeled by Kirsten Wylder, store manager.



Borough Vintage • 1960s metallic A-line dress (\$168); 1960s drop earrings (\$28); 1970s snakeskin and leather Pierre Cardin clutch (\$128). Model: Rachel Ross.

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Oldies but goodies

Quests for nostalgia and thrift turn local resale shops into favorite hunting places.

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Resale isn't a trend. It's a reality. The appetite for goods is so ravenous that we give away, donate, sell and consign items just so that we can make room to buy more items. We are the American consumer, and we cannot be appeased.

Some people shop resale for the prices; others because it's eco-friendly; others want something nostalgic; others crave one-of-a-kind items. And then there are people like me who just love the thrill of the hunt (along with all of the above).

So with that, let's just say that de-

mand has changed the supply. The gritty, slightly musty and crammed racks of resale past are past.

Not every resale shop looks like a high-end boutique, but most have styles and personalities that say more than "we sell old clothes."

The emergence of nostalgic pop culture and the rise of hipsters and yuppies (yuppie hipsters) has been a resale boon. It's no longer fringe to wear a 1940 Betty

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HOME AWAY YOUR STYLE

RESALE • FROM H1

Today's pendant necklaces are reminiscent of jewelry of the '60s and '70s

Draper frock for \$20 when Banana Republic is selling replicas for \$120. Naturally, this phenomenon creates a wider audience for the original.

And then there's the dirty secret that the latest collection of pendant necklaces from such designers as Trina Turk available at Nordstrom, Bloomingdales, Piperlime, amazon.com and a slew of other outlets are strikingly reminiscent of the '60 and '70s costume jewelry on the racks at local resale shops for a fraction of the cost. And would you rather buy the 2012 Diane von Furstenberg printed wrap dress being sold in hundreds of stores today or a 1970s version that exists in just a few hundred closets?

We've said it before, and we'll say it again. Vintage shopping is not for the faint of heart. You need to stay hydrated, stock up on protein and possibly pack a snack. If you love clothes, you'll be entertained even if you don't make a purchase. If you hate shopping, we have some suggestions. If you love shopping, we've got more suggestions. If you hate vintage because you're a plus-sized woman, we have some suggestions and solutions.

Here are a few of our favorite stops that you should put on your resale tour.

THE BALE OUT

701 North 15th Street (fourth floor of City Museum, no admission to shop, stop at front desk for a wrist band), St. Louis, 314-258-3644, thebaleout.com

This is the kind of nutty vintage clothing store that you'd expect to find in the how-is-this-possible City Museum. It's zany and improbable. It's chaotic and inviting. The store includes an espresso bar, so you can recharge on the premises.

The inventory for the shop was collected more than five years ago when the late Bob Cassilly and his wife, Giovanna, got a call that more than 600 bales of clothing needed to be saved from the landfill. The building where they were being stored was being demolished, and it is the Cassilly way to recycle. So the Bale Out was born, and it is a delightful hodgepodge of eclectic eccentricity. The items range roughly from the 1930s to the 1980s, and it's a charming assortment of dresses, lady coats, men's jackets, sweaters, scarfs, skirts, vests, belts, flannels, hats, sport coats, shirts, jewelry and a mountain of men's ties. But be forewarned. Shopping here is an adventure. Each rack is relatively organized by theme, but you will find wool coats, cowboy hats, heavy cardigans, polyester shirts, sailor pants and Doris Day dresses within a few feet of one another. There's a surprise at every blink, and we

different trends at a time that are curated by racks for people looking to coordinate an entire outfit or pick up items to pair with something they already own. She's keen on working with customers to fit their budget and style. Prices start at \$18 and typically top out around \$128, unless it's a dress for a formal occasion. And for people who love vintage, but don't love the sizing, she has a separate alterations shop on the premises called, Apparel Doctor. The shop can create new items based on vintage patterns in any size your heart desires. Custom dresses, starting around \$100, require about three visits and are completed in three to four weeks.

TFA, THE FUTURE ANTIQUES

6514 Chippewa Street, St. Louis Hills, 314-865-1552, tfa50s.com

This shop is a mid-century modern lover's dream, and although the furniture is prominent, the clothing supply is ample. There's been a recent influx of 1960s geometric mod shift dresses just in time for the warm weather and neon trend.

But like most vintage, you never know what you'll find here. Dresses are plentiful, and there's a surprising variety of sizes. The store recently acquired a healthy collection from the estate of a woman who wore a size 16. The store is well-appointed and assorted according to color. It's heavy on dress with a respectable supply of tops and skirts. And there's a coveted no-fitting-room-required wall of handbags and hats in a surprising array of fabrics and styles. The store concentrates its clothing stock on 1950s to 1970s apparel roughly priced from \$20 to \$70.

RUNG

9739 Manchester Road, Rock Hill 314-918-0575, shoprungi.org

This newbie among resale shops has a problem. "People don't want to

you can have a Rung associate compile clothing in your size before you arrive. It requires a small deposit (\$25) that is applied to your purchase.

[RE]FRESH

1710 South Brentwood Boulevard, Brentwood, 314-881-0331, refreshstl.org

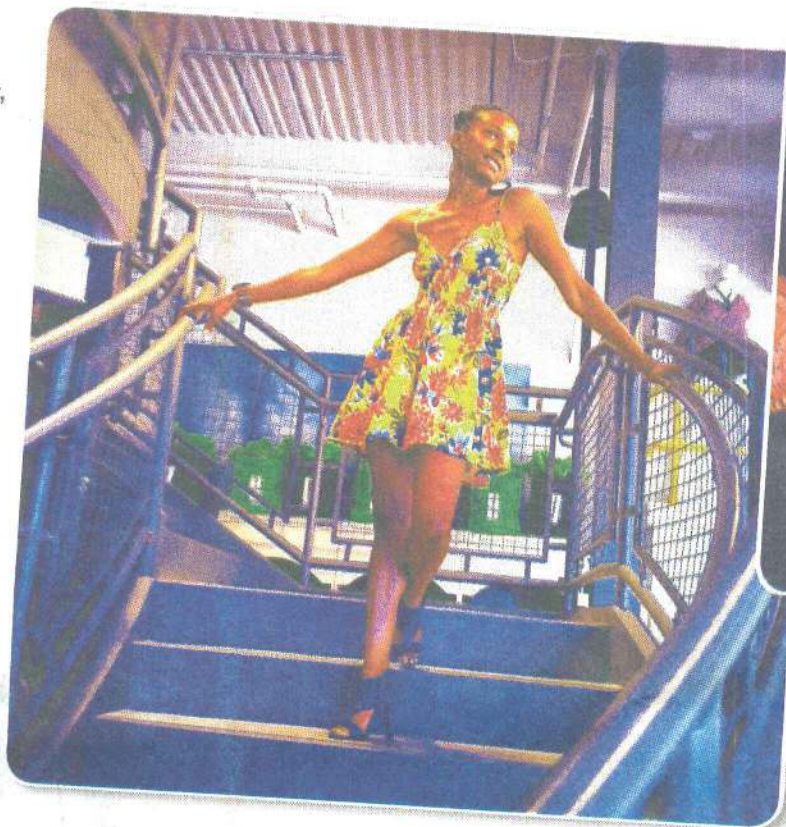
The two-tiered shop with a DJ booth on the mezzanine level feels more like Forever 21 than a resale shop. The open floor plan, contemporary youthful clothes and styling are designed to entice the budget-conscious who are still style-conscious. You won't find anything dated here.

This is not the place to shop for something vintage, but the nonprofit retail shop is run by the Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition, which employs and provides job training for its students. Proceeds benefit the organization. Yet shopping here won't feel like a typical charity thrift shop; the vibe is young. The top floor is strictly formal and cocktail wear, including items for men and women — a great stop for the budget promgoer or even young ladies looking for a gown to wear to a gala. There's even a red carpet area and couch seating just outside the dressing room to make visiting the boutique feel more upscale. The shop recently started advertising its prices in the window — dresses starting at \$10 — because people kept confusing the location across the street from Nordstrom Rack and Whole Foods as a trendy, i.e. costly, boutique. Trends, yes. Expensive, no.

RETRO 101/CHERRY BOMB VINTAGE

2303 Cherokee Street, St. Louis, 314-762-9722

This is a favorite stop for vintage clothing connoisseurs looking for an expansive collection and a free



TFA, The Future Antiques • Pink eyelet transparent dress from the 1950s with a ribbon belt (\$44.50), white transparent gloves (\$8.50), brown with silver accent cat eye glasses (\$29.50), five-strand pearl and apricot necklace and matching clip earrings (\$22.50). Model: Susan Collins-Cira.

[Re]Fresh • Tara Thompson models a floral sundress (\$16) and leather bracelet (\$6). She wears her own earrings and shoes.



The Bale Out • Vintage cream dress (\$19). Modeled by Scout Sale.



Gallery • See more scenes from the retail shops. stltoday.com/fashion