



# LIVABLY MODERN

Little Italy's D3 Home showcases furniture and home goods that are durable, sustainable and anything but boring

By LESLIE HACKETT

David Alan Diehl and Michael Chavez moved to San Diego two years ago from Atlanta seeking a slower pace of life. After the move, Diehl, whose background is in interior design, was having difficulties finding furniture at area stores that wasn't low-end or super high-end. So, last year, he and his husband, Chavez, decided it was time to open their own shop.

After looking all around the city for a location to house their store, Little Italy, with its up-and-coming new builds, trendy restaurants and available large retail spaces,

became the place where they would establish D3 Home in March 2018.

The store is located in the block just north of chef Richard Blais' famed Crack Shack in a multi-use building on Kettner Boulevard in an area that's known as NOLI (North Little Italy) and sometimes referred to as the Little Italy Design District. The building in the 2400 block of Kettner Boulevard also houses AT HOM Store & Design, Meyer Fine Art Inc. and Klassik, a high-end consignment store.

When customers come in, Diehl often hears, "I never walk down here; I had no idea these stores were here."

But walk the extra block from some of Little Italy's hottest dining destinations and you'll find D3 Home is a treasure trove filled with most home goods (except kitchen wares), including mattresses and bed linens, beautiful light fixtures, hospitality-quality durable furniture, fabrics and rugs all sourced from a variety of manufacturers focused on sustainability, as well as a host of artwork, accessories and gifts.

"The level of quality exceeds anything else in the city, especially for the price point," Diehl said. "We source stuff from an interior designer's view, rather than a lot of stores that source based on price points."



Photo by Rick Nocon



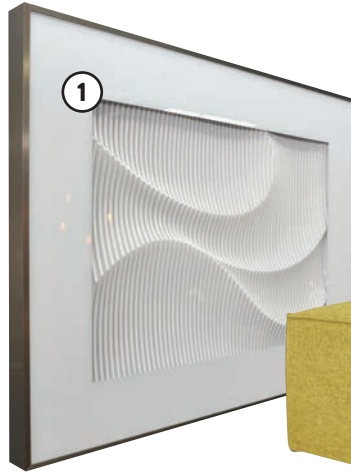
#### D3 HOME'S MOST POPULAR FINDS

Diehl says the Jeff Koons-inspired ceramic balloon dogs were featured on an episode of *Keeping Up with the Kardashians* and now he can hardly keep them in stock. Other in-demand items include smart extension cords from Exto 2, Pendleton pet accessories, art from local photographer Monica Hoover, and neon signs (custom options coming soon).

Diehl calls D3 Home's aesthetic "livable modern with some mid-century flair — it's not cold and sterile, lots of wood tones and stone, great fabrics and a lot of color."

## 5 EASY UPDATES FOR YOUR LIVING ROOM

Home Living & Design asked D3 Home co-owner David Alan Diehl to pick five items in his store that someone could work into their existing living room decor for a quick update.



**1. Textured wall art.** Molded plastic, 3D artwork, framed in a variety of sizes. \$599-\$799



**2. Gus\* Modern mix modular sectional couch pieces.** Eight components are available and come in a variety of fabric options. \$645-\$2,395



**3. Pop-art ceramics.** Balloon animals based on the work of artist Jeff Koons (some of which double as piggy banks) and hands molded in a variety of shapes, including fingers crossed and peace sign. Available in a variety of sizes, shapes and finishes. \$24-\$237

**4. Karastan Frisco rug.** Available in three sizes and made with eco-friendly Everstrand material (a polyester yarn created from recycled plastic water bottles). \$300-\$800



**5. EQ3 Plateau 84" Sofa.** Available in a variety of fabrics. Starting at \$1,699



*In addition to the Little Italy store, located at 2400 Kettner Blvd., Suite 106, D3 Home has a full online store with shipping available nationwide.*