

CHINATOWN AND COUNTRY

Interior designers have long gone to Chinatown to snap up antiques for a fraction of the West Hollywood price. At **Alex Cheung Co.** (936-938 *Chung King Rd.*, 213.629.4705), 18-inch, white-and-blue porcelain fish bowls go for about \$150, while across the road, **Fong's** (943 *Chung King Rd.*, 213.626.5904) has been selling unusual antiques for more than half a century. But a new breed of home shops now offers a fresh take on housewares. At **Flux** (943 *N. Hill St.*, 213.621.4011), a new ceramics gallery located on up-and-coming Hill Street, owner Lilith Rocket strips down the décor to its concrete-floor and white-wall basics, the better to focus the spotlight on her collection of understated, subtle ceramics that includes hunky-chunky vases, translucent porcelain vessels and jewelry. Rocket, who displays her own work, carries the designs of a dozen ceramicists, including Roger Herman and Philip Cornelius. At **Realm** (425 *Gin Ling Wy.*, 213.628.4663), the gift shop concept gets a major makeover. Located in a former restaurant, a rare example of Chinese Art Deco architecture in Los Angeles, the boutique carries colorful Italian barware, table accessories and a good selection of coffee table books. Owner Peter Liu's clever take on kitschy trinkets makes this a one-stop shop for holiday gifts.

