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explore the pearl



The Modern Touch

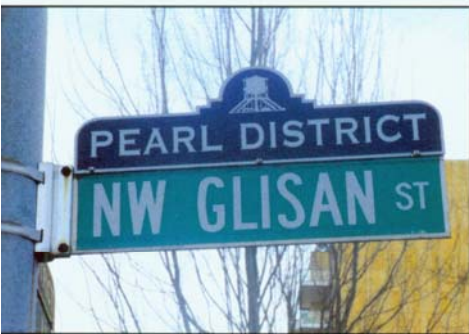
Unique designers & retailers make the Pearl a hub for home furnishings

PLUS: A Visual History of the Pearl, Streetscape, Scene & Heard and Five Questions

EWF Modern's
Renee Russo



OREGONLIVE
The Oregonian



Story by *Erinn Hutkin*

Spring is just around the corner – and it’s an ideal time to focus on home improvement between winter’s dreary weather and summer fun. For those looking to spruce up their home or business – or just enjoy some nice local ambiance – N.W. Glisan Street in the Pearl offers a variety of interior design, furniture and art galleries and more. Here’s a look.

Get here with Car2Go

1100 N.W. Glisan St., Suite 1B
877-488-4224

Don't own a car and need a ride? Car2Go's philosophy is simple: just take a car, drive it and park it. Drivers can open any vehicle in the company's fleet with a member card they receive after signing up. Members can use Car2Gos they find on the spot or they can book online. Once you get where you're going, either leave the vehicle or go back to it if you want to drive more. What a great way to cover a lot of ground in a short time!

Start with the basics at Bedmart

1039 N.W. Glisan St.
503-546-7815

In 1992, BedMart was founded by Steven Stone and his wife, Sherry, and two decades later, their daughter Elana joined the family business. The family's first store – at the corner of 56th and Powell – was described by Stone as the “ugliest building in Portland,” but it was the first of many to come.

Today, BedMart has grown to 27 stores across Oregon and southwest Washington. The Pearl District location is more than just a sleep shop. The store carries mattress lines such as Tempur-Pedic, Serta, Icomfort, Latex Bliss and NW Bedding. But in addition, the showroom is filled with the Ekorness line of Stressless furniture including recliners, sofas, coordinating tables, pillows, linens, down comforters and lamps.

Encore Audio/Video

1605 N.W. Glisan St.
503-224-9400

Encore Audio/Video is a business filled with

people who “live, breathe and dream about technology.” Those at the company are on a mission to share their passion with as much of Portland as possible.

The staff talks with customers about who will use audio and visual systems and what they'll be used for – from watching movies to entertaining outdoors. Members of the design staff look into incorporating equipment that customers already have, and shoppers can decide whether audio/video “toys” should be the centerpiece of a room, or blended into the background.

The store offers design-friendly products - including mirrored TV monitors and speakers that can be hidden behind walls.

Whether a customer is seeking advice on compatibility or an equipment demo, the staff is eager to share its knowledge.

Vanillawood

1238 N.W. Glisan St.
503-327-8065

Led by husband and wife team James and Kricken Yaker, Vanillawood is a small design/build firm where clients can expect “personal attention and a strong committed passion to creating unique spaces.” The couple focuses on using detailed organic and green building materials as well as contemporary finishes to “create spaces that are perfect for entertaining and lounging together with family.”

Taking their experiences from living in Italy, New York and Los Angeles, the couple aims to “incorporate urban design with comfort, function and luxury.” Organic contemporary is their “signature blueprint,” meaning they aim for open-plan living spaces where “rooms breathe life into one another, capturing as much natural light as we can find.”

Most of all, they strive to create spaces that are a reflection of each client and the way they live.

Blick Art Materials

1115 N.W. Glisan St.
503-223-3724

Founded in 1911, Blick Art Materials is now in its third generation of family ownership and is the “largest and oldest provider of art supplies in the United States.” The store's products cater to artists of all sorts – from a child making his or her first attempt to scribble with crayons to well-known professionals.

Pearl Hardware

1621 N.W. Glisan St.
503-228-5135

More than 4,600 of Ace Hardware's 4,700 stores worldwide are owned and operated by local entrepreneurs. These men and women are small business owners who are part of the community. As a result, Ace prides itself on staying “small and very personal.”

Glisan Street dining: a world of choices

Andina
1314 N.W. Glisan St.
503-228-9535

Travels in Peru and talks with a fellow Peruvian in Oregon led Peter Platt to found Andina in 2003. Soon, he welcomed the co-stewardship of his parents (who met in Peru in the 1960s) and two brothers.

Today, Andina has become “one of the region's leading Peruvian restaurants,” and