gifts with gravitas

CULTURE AND COMMERCE COLLIDE AT MIAMI'S BEST MUSEUM SHOPS.

BY CHRISTINE BORGES



The Vizcaya Café and Shop at Vizcaya Museum & Gardens

Dynamo Museum Shop, The Wolfsonian–FIU

This Miami Beach institution houses founder Micky Wolfson Jr.'s collection of objects from 1885 to 1945 (the height of the Industrial Revolution through WWII). But its gift shop sells an eclectic mix of useful and/or visually stimulating items from all time periods, such as a playful, Philippe Starck-designed colander shaped like an upside-down helmet. An added bonus: Its in-shop café now boasts a menu by chef Ken Lyon (of Lyon & Lyon and Fratelli Lyon).

1001 Washington Ave., Miami Beach, 305-531-1001; wolfsonian.org

Elemental, Bass Museum of Art

The design-geek paradise Elemental—which also has a location in Wynwood as well as an outpost in Colombia—opened within the Bass Museum this past summer. In addition to clever home décor and artist-designed gadgets (think a bomb-shaped flower vase and endangered-species pencil erasers), the outpost also features museum-exclusive offerings like art prints and stationery reflecting the latest Renaissance, Baroque, and contemporary art exhibitions.

2100 Collins Ave., Miami Beach, 305-673-7530; bassmuseum.org

HistoryMiami Gift Shop

While Pan Am bags became "cool" after Marc Jacobs reinterpreted them and ABC's hit show came along, the HistoryMiami gift shop has had authentic re-creations on hand for a while now. Nature buffs, meanwhile, will appreciate the John James Audubon note cards and wooden carvings galore. And if you want to beef up your knowledge of the Sunshine State, you'll find all sorts of great resources here, from books such as *Miami Then and Now* to documentaries like *Miami: Reflections on the River.*

101 W. Flagler St., Miami, 305-375-1622; historymiami.org

The MAM Store, Miami Art Museum

In addition to an impressive selection of publications, including current hot seller *Miami Contemporary Artists* and Alvar Aalto-designed Iittala vases, the shop's kid-approved (but adult-friendly) toys—such as the Miami Monopoly game and hand-painted Momiji dolls—are best sellers. But the real standouts here are the Art-o-Mat displays—retired cigarette vending machines that have been repurposed to vend art instead.

101 W. Flagler St., Miami,305-375-3000; miamiartmuseum.org

MOCA Shop, Museum of Contemporary Art, North Miami

Given its reputation for housing one of the most expansive contemporary art collections in South Florida, it's no wonder MOCA's on-site boutique pops with creativity. Choose from monographs on artists such as Dan Flavin and Robert Longo, biographies on the likes of Andy Warhol and Lee Krasner, artful Art Deco-inspired Bakelite necklaces by Miami designer Iris Chase, and colorful, fabric-wrapped embroidered pieces by Lisu Vega.

770 NE 125 St., North Miami, 305-893-6211; mocanomi.org

Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens Store

Like the museum itself, the Morikami's store pays tribute to the Far East: After wandering the expansive grounds, you can shop assorted Asian-inspired accessories (including scarves, purses, and wallets), hand-painted holiday ornaments, netsuke mini sculptures, and tomes such as Debra Samuel's *My Japanese Table: A Lifetime of Cooking with Friends and Family.*

4000 Morikami Park Road, Delray Beach, 561-495-0233; morikami.org

Vizcaya Café and Shop, Vizcaya Museum & Gardens

Miami's iconic, sprawling, 180-acre National Historic Landmark—once home to legendary industrialist James Deering—was constructed in 1916, but designed to look like an Italian estate built 400 years earlier. Its shop boasts the postcards, books, and other Vizcaya-inspired souvenirs you'd expect, plus gorgeous finds like fine Italian silk scarves and neckties, and Venetian gondola ornaments.

3251 South Miami Ave., Miami, 305-250-9133; vizcayamuseum.org

AU NATUREL

MOCA reveals treasures from Haiti in a Basel pop-up shop.



Donna Karan

Inspired by Haitian artistry, designer Donna Karan helped found the Urban Zen Foundation in 2008 to empower communities of artists across the country. With Karan at its helm, Urban Zen's collection of stone, metal, and wood pieces (think necklaces adorned with vibrant beads, and beautifully handcrafted horn-shaped spoons) meshes ultra-chic minimalism with nature, and each item sold benefits the foundation's Hope Help & Rebuild Haiti campaign. The stylish pop-up shop is located within the Museum of Contemporary Art. *urbanzen.com*

—*JONATHAN BORGE*



The Urban Zen collection, available at the MOCA Shop

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