



Clockwise from far left: Giving Gifts store. Necklaces from Reiko Designs. Air plant terrarium from Green with Envy. Meditation pillows from Inner Fire Creations. Bowls and cups from Nkuku

Giving Gifts

This ethically minded cooperative shop is filled with fascinating products

If objects could talk, oh, the stories they would tell at Giving Gifts (page 28). Rooted Beauty (www.rooted-beauty.com) packages its lip butter in the beauty industry's first eco-tube: made from 100% post-consumer recycled paper and completely biodegradable, able to be composted in just two weeks. FashionABLE (www.livefashionable.com) scarves are made by former sex workers in Ethiopia who are learning new skills, receiving counselling and being paid a fair wage. Necklaces and bracelets from 31 Bits (www.31bits.com) are crafted by women in Uganda who take part in a five-year program that teaches business and financial skills, pays a fair wage, gives micro loans to

help with the purchase of bicycles for transportation, and offers health education as well as HIV testing and treatment.

Owner Lisa Pozin is passionate about her store and eager to share the tales behind each of the products she has so carefully sourced—and the space dedicated to Pozin's unique finds is just one of five rooms. The other four feature equally fascinating items, everything from jewellery, terrariums and yoga gear to chocolates, antiques and kids' clothes. Every few months the vendors change, necessitating a repeat visit to discover all new treasures.

An excuse to shop some more? Sounds good to us. **W**