

STAVE

She's a Knockout

*Meet the local fighter and
fitness model gunning for
a Thai boxing title.*

Page 6



WINDOW-SHOPPING

THE NEW JANUS ET CIE SHOWROOM OFFERS A DIVERSE ARRAY OF FABRIC, FURNITURE AND HOME ACCESSORIES

From inside the airy new Janus et Cie showroom in River Oaks, there's a view straight through the patio doors to the cars driving by soundlessly on San Felipe. It's a proper Houston view for the company, which originally came to the city nine years ago with a previous location in the Decorative Center.

"Houston was the place where we really set our footprint first in Texas — before Dallas. We had L.A. and New York, Houston was the first outside of those two main cities," said Janus et Cie president and CEO Janice Feldman. "We looked at it as being a hub of Fortune 500 companies where people love to live outside and entertain, a social city. I was looking at both markets and I was so impressed with the museums and the eclectic nature of the art collections; it really moved me. I thought, if



Dave Rossman photos

A pair of giant faux topiary arches bring the outdoors inside at Janus et Cie's new showroom in River Oaks.

people have that kind of art here, they'll appreciate what we do."

Janus et Cie is known

for its high-end outdoor furniture, often found in hotels, cafes and at public spaces including

Janus et Cie

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at New York's Rockefeller Center, so while the brand has expanded to include full indoor and outdoor furniture lines as well as textiles, accessories and rugs, it's fitting that the new space includes a landscaped patio that features faux bois benches alongside Janus' famous rattan seating. Even inside the 7,000-square-foot store, exterior elements are present, most notably with a pair of giant faux topiary arches.

Designed by architect Michael Vanderbyl in the former Smith & Hawken space, the store features open but delineated areas for Janus et Cie's custom fabrics line — there are more than 250, virtually all of them designed to withstand outdoor elements — and the company's Loom collection, paper furni-



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ture that looks similar to rattan but is created from long-grain paper that's twisted into twine, loomed and upholstered and onto a frame, a process known as Lloyd Loom that was invented a century ago and revived in part by Feldman. An array of rattan chairs from traditional to modern is displayed along the walls, yielding a bit of an art gallery vibe.

The store, which opened on Thursday, also is the first to display Janus et Cie's new accessories line, 250 pieces that includes bowls, trays, candle holders, vases, frames and other home décor items. Thirteen of those products, for example a red-orange

tray handmade from traditional Japanese urushi lacquer, comprise a limited-edition "masterpieces" line.

"We're kind of like BMW. BMW has an 8-series, a 7, a 5, a 3, a 1 and a Mini Cooper. Frequently, people will come in here and say, 'It's so beautiful!' And they think we're expensive just because we look good. But when you look you realize you can have a chair for \$200," said Feldman. "And you can have a chair for \$2,000, too. Always quality, always design, but very diverse in style and price. People always know that when they buy something from us they'll enjoy it for a long time."

Sarab Rufca